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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Boise resident who enjoys spending time in the Long Valley area, I am writing today in support of Midas Gold Idaho's mission to help the Salmon River and save multiple species of endangered fish with its Stibnite Gold Project.

The Yellow Pine Pit that left behind by previous mining projects has hurt many fish populations. These projects were carried out in a time before the current regulations we have today. Because of this pit, Chinook, steelhead and trout in the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River have been cut off from miles of their natural spawning habitat. This has been the case since the 1930s and the fish populations have suffered and decreased as a result.

As part of the Stibnite Project Midas Gold has committed to providing a solution for migrating fish to reach their historical spawning grounds. They will engineer a temporary fish passageway to accommodate a wide range of flow for the duration of the project. The tunnel's design uses a system that will take into consideration the swimming speeds of each species of fish and transport adult salmon, steelhead and trout upstream, and the downstream passage of adults and juveniles of all species. Along with providing an efficient solution, the tunnel's design includes similar lighting and ambience to ease the transition for the fish who pass through. After the project is completed, Midas will then create a permanent passage.

Restoring this portion of the Salmon River will require the removal of barriers currently blocking passage and will improve conditions for these fish.

Midas Gold's commitment to enhance these fish habitats with a focus on access and quality will offer several positive benefits to the environment overall which could also increase recreational activity and increase tourism.

Midas Gold has demonstrated it is committed to protecting our wildlife, which is why they have earned my support. I urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve Midas Gold's Alternative 2 proposal because I believe its environmental restoration plan is in line with the U.S. Forest Service's mission. Thank you for your consideration.

From,

Robert Jones