

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Curtis

Last name: Harris

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cleaning up the old mining sites around Valley County has been a concern of mine for many years now. But it's not just me. Many of my friends and family in this area are tired of the environmental damage these old mines created. And frankly, these mining sites are an eyesore for people who enjoy the outdoors. That's why I'm writing you in support of Midas Gold's Alternative 2 plan.

Under Midas's Alternative 2 plan, the company has agreed to clean up two of the existing mining sites that date back to the 1800s. I'm sure you already know that cleaning up these sites is very costly, which is why it's been put off for so long. If we have a chance to bring our outdoors back to their natural state, I believe we should take that opportunity with open arms.

Midas is a modern mining company who understands the importance of mitigating the environmental impact of their operations. The Alternative 2 plan will fix more of our environment than we could accomplish by ourselves. We just don't have the money to do it.

I appreciate the company's creativity and can-do approach to problem-solving, as well. The East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River was diverted in 1938, and ever since then, trout and salmon have been blocked from returning to their spawning grounds. It's gotten so bad we have to stock Meadow Creek with Chinook salmon.

Midas has devised an ingenious short-term fix: they will build a nearly mile-long fish tunnel. After that, they promise to backfill Yellow Pine to maximize habitat and ultimately create a permanent passage for fish to reach miles of additional spawning habitat that is currently blocked.

If Midas wants to mine in Valley County, then they should have a responsibility to leave the area cleaner and better off than they found it. And we don't have to take their word for it. Alternative 2 is a plan that is easy to check up on, to make sure Midas is keeping up their end of the bargain.

Finally, the jobs that Midas Gold will create in our community is a much-needed relief from the economic loss our local workers have experienced from the COVID-10 pandemic. If we allow Midas Gold to set up shop here, they will benefit the community counteracting the jobs we've lost over the past few months. I hope[middot] that you will carefully consider the Alternative 2 plan.