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Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done did not go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will excavate and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9). This would be a huge win for the site because today arsenic and antimony levels far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Midas Gold's water treatment during operations will further lower levels of these metals in the river and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways fro m Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. And fish still are not able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds. When fish are reconnected to more habitat upstream, 4.12-33 of the DEIS shows it will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations. This area needs to be remediated and Midas Gold has a plan to do it the right way.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the alternative two presented by Midas Gold, as expeditiously as possible.