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Comments: U.S.F.S.,

If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with the Stibnite Gold Project, they will reclaim an area impacted by historical mining, create hundreds of well-paying jobs and provide a huge boost to our economy in the process. It is a win-win for Valley County. We need to permit the project.

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 didn[rsquo]t go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefor present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up 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[rsquo]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 wate rways from 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, 4.2-39 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.

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to continue to move the project forward and permit the site using alternative 2 as the guide.

My best,

Name: Nikifor Muroff