Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Curtis
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I am writing to express my views on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the Stibnite Gold Project is compelling for many reasons and it is a project I am committed to seeing come to fruition.

I believe the project presents a plan to repair the environment and boost Idaho[rsquo]s economy - particularly under Alternative 2. Historic mining operations, development of former town site and natural processes have resulted in significant degradation of many elements of the environment. Loss of fish passage, potential water degradation from previous mining activity and excessive erosion are all of great concern to our community. Right now, salmon are blocked from their native spawning grounds. Midas Gold would reconnect salmon passage through a fish passageway before mining begins and permanently connect fish migration after backfilling the Yellow Pine pit. Analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon. In fact, DEIS 4.12-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased genetic diversity of isolated populations and productivity. Restoration plans will also provide a 23% increa se in stream functional units, a net gain of 21,941 (appendix D table 8-1).

Alternative 2, which includes reprocessing old tailings waste, would lead to long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9). This is a huge plus for the site because of ongoing concerns of arsenic and antimony in the ground and surface water. The Stibnite Gold Project would finance reclamation efforts to address these problems and in turn boost Idaho[rsquo]s economy. It is a win-win for our community.

I urge you to approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold in alternative 2, it is the best of the alternatives outlined by the USFS. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide a huge benefit to our community and the local environment.

Yours,

Name: Curtis Bunch