Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Edward
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Attention Linda Jackson,

I am proud to welcome Midas Gold Idaho into our state and proud to support the Stibnite Gold Project. I hope you will take the time to consider my comments on why you should move to permit the project.

The old Stibnite mine site will likely never be cleaned up unless industry takes responsibility for those who came before them. Midas Gold plans to do just that. By mining the site, Midas Gold plans to restore the natural flow and gradient of the East Fork of the South Fork to reconnect historical spawning grounds. The DEIS analysis showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.12-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations. The company will repair blowout creek, permanently solving a source of massive sedimentation and habitat degradation. Plus, in reprocessing and repurposing millions of tons of spent ore and unconstrained tailings, Midas will safeguard water quality indefinitely. To protect the environment, the Forest Service is requiring Midas Gold to implement 156 mitigation measures (appendix D of the DEIS). Part of these measures include a one to one replacement of wetland areas (DEIS 4.11-26), which would lead to a net gain of 346.5 wetland functional units [acirc][euro][ldquo] a 40% increase (DEIS appendix D, table 8-2).

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 from Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. Midas Gold has a plan to fix these problems during construction. Unfortunately, if Midas Gold isn[rsquo]t allowed to move forward with its plan, it is highly unlikely these critical improvements will ever happen.

The Stibnite Gold Project will provide stable, well-paying jobs to up to 1,000 employees throughout the life of the project. On average, employees will make $80,000 per year [acirc][euro][ldquo] twice as much as the average salary in Valley County. Overall, the company estimates the annual payroll will be approximately $42 million per year.

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. There is no need to extend the comment period. Sixty days is plenty of time to comment and we need the benefits of this project now.

Thank You,

Edward Bracht