

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/29/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Robin

Last name: Miller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on the matter of the Stibnite Gold Project proposal offered by Midas Gold. Having reviewed the specifics of this project and the various alternatives examined by the U.S. Forest Service's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), I believe it is quite clear that Alternative 2 offers the most effective solution to address this issue. Please approve this approach without any further postponement.

Alternative 2 provides the safest answer to two major issues that are of great concern to local Valley County residents such as myself. First, it places a new storage facility for tailings in a much safer location than Alternative 3, which would site the facility in a currently untouched part of the Salmon River. There is just no need to disturb new parts of the ecosystem when there is already a perfectly good solution that keeps the tailings storage facility within the current footprint of the project. Second, Alternative 3 would call for new access roads to the site, keeping mining traffic separated from regular traffic, reducing the amount of sedimentation running off of roadways, and limiting the opportunity for accidents and spills.

These points are critical because the waterways in this area have already experienced enough degradation as it is. From metals leaching into the ground and surface water due to historical tailings and waste rock that has been left unlined in Meadow Creek to exorbitant high levels of sedimentation due to a decades-old dam failure, there is enough to worry about in the Salmon River as it is.

Fortunately, Midas Gold has described in great detail how it intends to address these issues. For the sedimentation, it will install a rock drain below the site of the foiled dam and rebuild the surrounding streams to prevent excessive sedimentation from continuing. And for the metals leaching into the ground, it will pick up and reprocess tons of tailings while storing them, and the waste rock in such a manner that prevents either from interacting with water in the future. These efforts to remove legacy tailings and waste lowers concentrations of metals like antimony and arsenic in this part of the Salmon River, which a finding from the draft EIS.

For the reasons I have outlined above, I implore you to move forward with Alternative 2 and allow Midas Gold to begin restoration of this area that has needed it for so long.