Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/4/2020 6:00:00 AM
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Comments: As an avid supporter of the environment, l write to you to urge the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with Alternative 2 in Midas Gold Idaho's proposal for the Stibnite Gold Project. I have reviewed the other options explored by your agency's Draft Environmental Impact Statement and have come to the conclusion that only Alternative 2 would effectively remediate the local environment so it once again suitable for local fish and wildlife.

Alternative 5 is clearly not an option. Even the Draft Environmental Tm pact Statement acknowledges that Alternatives 1 through 4 would substantially reduce geotechnical risks associated with legacy mining operations through proposed reclamation activities. (4.2.4. 1.3)

The problems for local fish in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region date hack to the late 1930s, when the river was diverted to allow miners to excavate what is now known as the Yellow Pine pit. However. the river was allowed to flow back to its original route and nothing was done to fill in the abandoned mine pit. This essentially made swimming upstream past the rocky terrain impossible for fish like the chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

Midas Gold Idaho has extensive restoration plans for this part of the Salmon River in order to reconnect these impacted fish populations back to the cooler waters in higher elevations that make for ideal spawning and rearing of juvenile fish. Beginning in year one, Midas Gold Idaho has outlined how it intends to construct a tunnel specially engineered to provide passage way for migratory fish, connecting them to newly accessible streams that will allow them to jump start population recovery before mining is even complete.

Then, once mining operations have wrapped up, the company will set to backfilling the exposed pit and fully re storing the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, creating a dynamic river system that mirrors its natural conditions a closely as possible. This include removing multiple physical barriers to passage, which. as the Draft Environmental Impact Study found, will benefit local fish population s. Chapter 4 explains how free movement and access to habitat can improve the genetic diversity of isolated populations offish (4.12-33).

I encourage you to accept Alternative 2 and help this vital project get off the ground as soon as possible.