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First name: Lea

Last name: Linville

Organization:

Title:

Comments: If the Forest Service is serious about improving water quality in Valley County you should immediately approve the Midas Gold Stibnite Gold Project. Look at these benefits it would produce for water quality alone, taken straight out of your own USFS Draft Environment Impact Statement.

* [bull] Removing legacy tailings and waste will lower concentrations of antimony and arsenic in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River . (One monitoring well found arsenic levels 700 times higher than the drinking water standard.) (Ch 4 Sec 4.9)

[bull] Removing legacy tailings and waste will also improve water quality in Meadow Creek. (Ch 3, 4.12 103-104)

[bull] The mitigation plan will provide a 40% increase in wetland acres, which help to filter and clean groundwater.(Ch 4, 4.11.2.2.1.1 and4.11.2.3.1.2)

There are so many other positive impacts that would come from allowing Midas Gold to clean up the old Stibnite mining district. It would stabilize soil erosion , protect the area from anticipated future effects of climate change, remove sedimentation from the river, and finally restore the full fish migration route that has been blocked since the late 1930s. All of that is documented in the USFS draft too.

I have no problem with mining when it is done right. But that's never happened before in the 100+ year history of the Stibnite District. Don't you think it's time we start doing it right now?

I do and you can put me down as one of the many Idahoans who are 100% behind the Midas Gold Alternative 2 proposal.