Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/7/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Jasmin
Last name: Goodin
Organization:
Title:
Comments: It is imperative that the U.S. Forest Service not only approve the Stibnite Gold Project, but that they adopt Alternative 2 as presented by Midas Gold and reviewed in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). This project will make a world of difference on the ecosystem in and around the site, especially the current poor quality of water.

Among other issues, the water quality around Stibnite has been deteriorating for years. This is largely due to the impact of previous mining operations, which have resulted in more than 10 million tons of old mining tailings and waste just lying out exposed in the Meadow Creek Valley. As water passes over these materials, they leach heavy metals like antimony and arsenic into the surface and ground water. Now, much of the water is all but uninhabitable for aquatic life and certainly undrinkable.

Midas Gold recognizes this problem and has said they will pick up the more than 10 million tons of legacy materials, reuse or reprocess them as needed, and then store them in such a way that they are not able to interact with the local water supply again. They will do this by storing them in a new, state-of-the-art tailings storage facility.

Alternative 2 provides the safest location for this storage facility moving forward. The DEIS found that the location for the facility in Alternative 2 would be on stable bedrock with a very low probability of failure, even during a seismic event. Conversely, the same studies were not made on the location for this facility proposed in Alternative 3. What was found by the DEIS, however, was that Alternative 3's location for the tailings storage facility would be in part on an ancient landslide area . That hardly seems like an ideal spot for such an important structure.

I want to see the conditions at Stibnite improved as well the environment protected well into the future, and I believe that only Alternative 2 can offer those things. I hope the U.S. Forest Service will come to the same conclusion.