Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Kelly
Last name: Olson
Organization: Western States CAT
Title: President
Comments: I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a $1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

I work for Western State CAT and the economic benefit this project could bring to our company cannot be overlooked. We could have the opportunity to work with a company we believe in and in turn create hundreds of indirect jobs, bringing millions to the state.

Midas Gold has made it clear reclamation efforts will start alongside operations and we want to be a part of it. Before mining ever begins, fish will be reconnected to their native spawning grounds upstream through a fish passageway. Eventually, the Yellow Pine Pit will be backfilled and the river can be permanently reconnected. Analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement 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 genetic diversity of isolated populations and productivity.

They have worked to find safe access routes to the site that keeps vehicles away from our precious waterways. And, under alternative 2, the company decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8). Plus, the company is trying to minimize their impact on the environment by keeping facilities within the existing footprint of historic mining operations.

The USFS has done a great job at providing on line resources through your virtual portal, and extending the comment period by 15 days has given community members everything they need to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge you to accept Midas Gold's plan as outlined under alternative 2 and continue moving this project forward.