Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 6:00:00 AM
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Thank you for allowing me to comment on such a vital and worthwhile project. The Stibnite Gold Project by Midas Gold Idaho is one of the most beneficial business proposals to come to our regions in years. It is sure to help support a strong economy while ensuring environmentally-friendly practices and remediation of any damages to our natural surroundings, including any prior damages not caused by Midas Gold. For these reasons, I strongly support the plan that Midas Gold has put forward in their Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO).

From an economic perspective, Midas Gold has committed to hiring, contracting, and purchasing supplies and services locally whenever possible. To dat e, Midas Gold has spent over $89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors. Midas Gold will support training opportunities for Idahoans throughout the life of its project by working directly with schools, community colleges and the Idaho Department of Labor. As a proud CAT employee, I am encouraged to hear that annually, the direct, indirect and induced impacts from local job creation are estimated at $28.8 million per year in annual local income during construction, $29.3 million per year during operations and $5 million per year during final reclamation .

The Stibnite region is no stranger to mining operations, however, past miners have left the area in disrepair and in need of a great deal of environmental remediation. Notably, fish migration has been obstructed for over 80 years, yet, Midas Gold's plan will include removing existing barriers to fish migration and re-establish salmon and steelhead passage to the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and Meadow Creek, thus reestablishing the fish's habitat and spawning areas. Midas Gold has committed the funds to ensure this happens even before beginning construction of the mine, highlighting the genuine care that the company has for our community and lands.

Midas Gold has also created a plan to build a state of the art Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) to ensure that the area remains protected from the hazardous byproducts of the mining operations, ensuring the safety of our land, water, and Idaho communities. The TSF will incorporate industry best practices specific to facility location, purpose, seismic risk, lifespan and contents. Specific elements will prevent breaching, overtopping, leaking, and excess water accumulation. It will also promote long term geotechnical stability and provide redundancy for critical components of the water management system and capacity to store any excess that may occur.

I am confident that this project reflects the values of Idahoans and I would like to offer my support for Alternative 2 of Midas Gold Idaho's Plan of Restoration and Operations, I ask that you accept their proposal and issue the necessary permits.