

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Gregg

Last name: Loptien

Organization:

Title:

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 in high quality jobs that pay a a living wage and it will do so for two decades if one considers the time involved in construction, operations and reclamation. The mine will bring an estimated \$1 billion investment into Idaho and this will be and is the only best plan ever brought forward to restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair. Mine to reclaim makes a lot of sense. Sure the taxpayers of the country could bear the brunt of the clean up and restoration but why go that route when a company is willing to do it. The Stibnite Mine will put people to work, pay taxes to the state on its profits and in the end the people, the state and the company come away with good jobs and the cleanup and restoration of a huge environmental liability. This is a Win-Win-Win situation for Idaho.

The company developed Alternative 2 after submitting their original plans and working with stakeholders, community members and environmental groups to try to determine how the original plan could be improved. The result was a smaller project footprint, reconnecting salmon to their native spawning grounds before mining ever begins and improved water quality. The other alternatives would cost the company more in delays, withholding benefits from the environment and from the people of the state of Idaho and for no good reason. Those same alternatives could also become so expensive it could make the project cost prohibitive. If other alternatives are selected and the cost to construct, operate and reclaim the Stibnite area become too steep then Idaho will lose its one good chance to see this area cleaned up. Midas Gold is thinking of peoples lives and future with this plan and they really want to see it succeed for many reasons but if they can not put this mine into production then t hey have to find alternative places to put their money and if they do that Idaho loses. Idaho will lose out on a cleaner environment, they will lose out on the \$1 billion dollar investment Midas will make in the state, they will lose out on good paying jobs, idaho will lose out on the taxes the company and its employees and all of the indirect jobs the project will generate most of all Idaho will be seen as a state that is not friendly to business.

With all of the craziness that has taken place in 2020 it would be nice to see something that makes sense get done. I sincerely hope and urge you to approve Alternative 2 and do something that makes sense for the state and the people who live there.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on the project. I urge you to move forward with alternative two.