Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/25/2017 6:00:00 AM
First name: Sherry
Last name: Gordon
Organization:
Title:
Comments: My comments on the Midas Gold "Stibnite Gold Project":

I've toured the site twice in the past few years, have spoken with a number of Midas employees on and off the Stibnite site, and I've been impressed with each one's commitment to environmental integrity as well as their personal love for the Salmon River Mtns.: this bodes well, that their core people aren't there to just make a buck off the land and run.

Many commenters obviously haven't read through the Midas document, nor seen what the Stibnite area looks like now. It's a mess, and it's been a mess for many decades, and left as such by multiple development companies. There's a -lot- of area that won't be freshly disturbed, because it's already scarred, some of it still toxic. The East Fork river -hasn't- allowed fish passage since the 1930s. People now fish in the unnaturally-colored Glory Hole, and you can keep fish from lakes... but I sure wouldn't eat fish from that old Yellow Pine pit, and I would -love- to see it filled in! To me, the chance to have a private company clean up and restore habitat - as they go along- (amazing), and at the end of the line, is a huge boon - because it is -extremely- unlikely to happen any other way, ever. (If you look at their plan, you see that restoration doesn't mean just throwing grass seed around a few planted trees - it's surprisingly sophisticated.) For a mining company to have employees excited about restoring habitat has got to be unusual.

A detail of the plan stood out: where they have to pipe some toxic stuff from one place to another, they're actually going to line the ground with a barrier - ! Since I've learned that the gas & oil industry is -not- subject to all the US environmental laws most people -assume- they are, nor to very much state regulation - and that these companies do everything they can to -avoid- paying for expenses that rightly -should- be on their backs, not to mention any extras that would protect people, water, soil, and air - it impresses me greatly when a resource company institutes procedures that are above and beyond (e.g., solar/electric power, recycling, tinier-than-the-usual drill pad sites, frogmen researching the rivers, etc.). The mining industry -is- subject to a panoply of US env. laws; and knowing that several different agencies are making Midas Gold jump through many, many regulatory hoops gives me confidence that nasty things are unlikely to slip through even if Midas wasn't so proactive about env. protection.

I appreciate that Midas' plan entails utilizing a roadway that -won't- be affecting major spawning streams nor leading heavy trucks through tiny Yellow Pine, and that -will- be providing recreational access to the Thunder Mtn. area.

The only thing that I would like to be assured about is that Midas has -fool-proof- $assurance in place for end-stage cleanup before they begin work of major new disturbance. Bonding holds companies accountable, promises don't.

There's no antimony being mined in the U.S., and it's a needed metal - and here's the one place that both has it (and gold/silver) -and- is already a disturbed site that's an eyesore and still in need of cleanup even after being a Superfund site for -years-. I'm not a mining engineer, but Midas Gold's plan looks very thorough to me. My family has had property in Yellow Pine for a century, the East Fork runs through it, the beauty of the area means a great deal to me. I've looked into it and been a 'neighbor' of the company for several years, and I can't see Midas' venture being a minus in either the short run or the long run. (I leave being impressed by the jobs to others.)