

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/2/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Rhonda

Last name: Egbert

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of Alternative 2 outlined in your draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans into well paying jobs and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry [middot] desperately in need of repair. It is impossible to ignore the positive trickle-down effect an investment of this size would have on our community and economy. Midas has been an active member of our community and participates in fundraising efforts as well as being good neighbors. These well paying jobs will allow families to sustain a way of life to enjoy rural Idaho and the mountainous lifestyle.

The old Stibnite mine site will likely never be cleaned up unless industry steps in and takes on the challenge and financial burdens. Midas Gold plans to do just that. By mining the site, Midas Gold plans to restore an important section of the East Fork of the South Fork and reconnect native fish to their spawning grounds. The company will also repair blowout creek, permanently solving a source of massive sedimentation and habitat degradation. This will help the Village of Yellow Pine improve their water quality by reducing sedimentation in our water filtration system. In addition, through their partnership and assistance with matching funds we are working on improving our outdated water system.

Alternative 2 will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water by reprocessing historic tailings (DEIS 4.9) and improve productivity of fish species in the area by opening up access to more habitat upstream (DEIS 4.12). These are important findings that cannot be ignored as the biggest threat facing the river is inaction.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our community needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the alternative 2 presented in the draft environmental impact statement. Permitting this project as quickly as possible will benefit our community immensely.