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First name: Sandra

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

My husband and I have spent 23 years enjoying the backcountry of Idaho. Whenever given the opportunity, one of our favorite things to do is fish. We have followed the project closely and have learned quite a bit about the plans that Midas Gold Idaho has for the Stibnite brown field. Salmon have been cut off from miles of high-mountain spawning grounds and rearing habitats since roughly 1938, when the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River (EFSFSR) was diverted around the Yellow Pine Pit. The only way for salmon to reproduce is by stocking them in Meadow Creek, where spawning occurs. We need to do better, but no one has tried- until now. As part of Midas Gold's proposal in Alternative Two, the company would design and install a fish passageway to help connect fish to their native spawning grounds for the first time in decades. The passageway would be built using best practices learned from successful examples used around the world. And it would be constructed before mining even starts. Once mining at the Yellow Pine Pit is complete, Midas Gold would begin full restoration of the river, creating a long-term solution for salmon to spawn upstream. In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the U.S. Forest Service found that removing these historical barriers to migration will help local fish populations by increasing productivity.

Thank you for providing the summary of the draft EIN and plan on your website. Reviewing Midas Gold's plans it is clear to me the company really believes in taking care of the environment, especially the mess created by historic mining operations, done at a time when mining was a whole other animal. I urge you to permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative two, which appears to make the most sense and the best all around. The other alternatives look like they may bring potential risks to the rivers, or not address the brownfield situation. I would be proud to welcome Midas Gold Idaho into our state and proud to support the Stibnite Gold Project. Thank you for your consideration
Sandy Nasse