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Organization: Cascade School District #422

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of the National Environmental Policy Act. As a public school educator and leader, new to Valley County in the past two years, I have been impressed with Midas Gold and their approach to presenting a transparent message within the community of Cascade by actively building relationships with community businesses and the school. They have been proactive in sharing their vision for mining in Valley County. They have offered resources to support environmental education and they have been transparent in laying out their long range action plan and how it may impact our community as a whole. Historically mining has not had a very good reputation for involving communities or setting environmental priorities; however, I have personally observed Midas set both of these as priorities as they have initiated building trust and professional relationships in an effort to repairing many legacy environmental issues at the historic mining site. It is very apparent that involving our community in seeking environmental priorities is a major investment for Midas. I believe their public partnership is the right approach for Idaho and will solve environmental issues while providing the area with a significant economic boost. While reviewing and seeking to understand each aspect of the DEIS, it appears to me Alternative 2 presents the best option to protect Idaho's environment. It limits the footprint of the project. It also eliminates the West End development rock storage facility, and extends the lining in Meadow Creek to protect against streamflow reductions. Alternative 3 proposes relocating the tailings storage facility to a more pristine habitat and appears that it would leave the existing tailings unprocessed. I understand this would mean missing the main targets on the key potential impacts of the project. Again, my understanding of the DEIS in chapter 4, section 4.9, removing legacy tailings and managing water quality provides a long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water. My request is that you select Alternative 2. The Stibnite Gold Project presents multiple opportunities for our local area as well as the State. Again, my request is that you permit alternative 2 and continue moving the project forward.