

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

First name: John

Last name: Krooblock

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. I, along with the thousands of other Idahoans, wholeheartedly support the company's plan modified Plan of Restoration and Operations submitted to the U.S. Forest Service and ask you to allow them to move forward in the permitting process. The Stibnite mining district has been home to mining operations for more than 100 years, however, past companies have left the site in disrepair and have negatively impacted the region's water resources and fish migration, among many other complications. Midas Gold has drafted a solid restoration plan for the area and has committed to cleaning up the mess left behind by others. There are over three million tons of tailings from the World War II era laying unconstrained in the Meadow Creek Valley, along with over seven million tons of spent heap leach ore. This is in addition to numerous other open pits and waste rock dumps across the site, and the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River currently flows into an abandoned mine pit. As proposed, the Stibnite Gold Project would remedy most of these historical impacts. It is an opportunity we cannot afford to pass up. If Midas Gold is not allowed to invest in the site, taxpayers will continue to be on the hook for this expensive clean up. Currently, Meadow Creek, one of the tributaries to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, passes by 10.5 million tons of spent ore and tailings left behind by past miners. Midas Gold has been studying the site for almost a decade and believes the tailings are leaching metals into the groundwater. That is why during the early years of operation, Midas Gold specifically designed their project to reprocess and properly store the historical tailings in an engineered and state-of-the-art lined facility in order to prevent any more metals leaching from these tailings and reuse the spent ore for construction purposes. I am thankful that Midas Gold has made the commitment to clean the site and help restore our wildlife's natural habitat. I strongly support the Stibnite Gold Project and ask that you approve Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold in their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations (Mod PRO).