

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 1:33:06 PM

First name: Kathryn

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of Midas Gold Idaho's public permitting process. The permitting process is extremely valuable for ensuring that our public lands are utilized in ways that will benefit current and future generations.

The Stibnite project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho is a state-of-the-art mine that will be using many of the best practices that have been developed by the mining industry to insure environmental responsibility, safety, and sustainability. Their current reclamation activities and planned projects to clean up the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River are much needed and a project which can take the financial burden of the clean up efforts off the federal budget is a smart option. It may be the only option to get the reclamation work done in a reasonable time frame with the ballooning federal deficit caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I worry about how many clean-up projects will be put on hold or have reduced plans resulting from a lack of funding. This project gives me hope that the river will be returned to a healthy and clean state which will have major beneficial impacts from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean for fish populations and recreation.

The project will also provide a major and stabilizing economic impact to an area of Idaho that relies heavily on seasonal, discretionary income from out-of-state tourism. The Stibnite project will provide approximately 1,000 full-time, year-round good paying jobs over the course of the mine's life that will help provide consistent incomes and tax-revenues to the region. This income will help to maintain existing infrastructure and provide funds to expand regional services such as healthcare and education. As we have now seen with the pandemic, areas that rely too heavily on tourist dollars are hard hit when disruptions to travel and discretionary spending occur. An area with a balanced economy will be more resilient and self-supporting during these challenges.

As a resident of Idaho, and avid outdoor enthusiast I encourage you to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward as outlined in alternative 2 within this 60-day comment period.

Thanks for your Consideration.