

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2020 1:29:15 AM

First name: koda

Last name: merkley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have completed my review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Stibnite Gold Project. I have found that the ModPRO is my favorite alternative presented and have found that the themes presented in it such as reducing the footprint of the project and backfilling the Hangar Flats Pit are positive directions for the project plan to follow. I support the development and use of the Burnt Log Route to avoid impacts and risk to the major salmon bearing waterways than an alternative route through the village of Yellow Pine. I also think that the alternative that would place the tailings storage facility in a pristine valley as opposed to the upper portion of the Meadow Creek Valley would be the wrong choice for moving forward.

The most important aspect of the Stibnite Gold Project to me is how it is a model and proof of concept for how private, economically driven interest can operate on a brownfields site and result in a better functioning environmental system. I feel that this is a very important precedent to set in order to address more of the major sites that have a significant environmental impact in various places across the western United States. There are even more examples in Idaho of abandoned mine lands that could be redeveloped creating economic benefit while minimizing the public dollars spent to achieve better functioning habitats.

I am satisfied that the Forest Service has done an adequate alternatives analysis in order to guide Midas Gold in a plan to operate the Stibnite Gold Project and close it to a state that is far superior to its current state. I look forward to reading the final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision. I hope that the incorporation of public comments can result in an even better project in terms of environmental impacts and habitat gains.