Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/2/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Rebekah
Last name: Smith
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Greetings,

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.

The old Stibnite mine site will likely never be cleaned up unless industry takes responsibility for those who came before them. Midas Gold plans to do just that. By mining the site, Midas Gold plans to restore the natural flow and gradient of the East Fork of the South Fork to reconnect historical spawning grounds. The DEIS analysis showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.2-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations. The company will repair blowout creek, permanently solving a source of massive sedimentation and habitat degradation. Plus, in reprocessing and repurposing millions of tons of spent ore and unconstrained tailings, Midas will safeguard water quality indefinitely. To protect the environment, the Forest Service is requiring Midas Gold to implement 156 mitigation measures (appendix D of the DEIS). Part of these measures include a one to one replacement of wetland areas (DEIS 4.11-26), which would lead to a net gain of 346.5 wetland functional units [acirc][euro]" a 40% increase (DEIS appendix D, table 8-2).

The Stibnite Gold Project will provide stable, well-paying jobs to up to 1,000 employees throughout the life of the project. On average, employees will make $80,000 per year [acirc][euro]" twice as much as the average salary in Valley County. Overall, the company estimates the annual payroll will be approximately $42 million per year.

I urge you to accept Midas Gold's plan nas outlined under alternative 2 and continue moving this project forward.

Most Respectfully,

Name: Rebekah Smith