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First name: Shaun
Last name: Henry
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Midas Gold Idaho has been a member of our community for the past decade. During this time, the company and its employees have become wonderful champions and supporters of our community. They've volunteered their time in our schools and given generously to community causes. The company's track record of following through on its promises and doing the right thing gives us the confidence to write in support of permitting the Stibnite Gold Project.

I believe the project presents a plan to repair the environment and boost Idaho[rsquo]s economy - particularly under Alternative 2. Historic mining operations, development of former town site and natural processes have resulted in significant degradation of many elements of the environment. Loss of fish passage, potential water degradation from previous mining activity and excessive erosion are all of great concern to our community. Right now, salmon are blocked from their native spawning grounds. Midas Gold would reconnect salmon passage through a fish passageway before mining begins and permanently connect fish migration after backfilling the Yellow Pine pit. Analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon. In fact, DEIS 4.12-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased genetic diversity of isolated populations and productivity. Restoration plans will also provide a 23% increa se in stream functional units, a net gain of 21,941 (appendix D table 8-1). Alternative 2, which includes reprocessing old tailings waste, would lead to long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9). This is a huge plus for the site because of ongoing concerns of arsenic and antimony in the ground and surface water. The Stibnite Gold Project would finance reclamation efforts to address these problems and in turn boost Idaho[rsquo]s economy. It is a win-win for our community.

Reviewing Midas Gold's plans it is clear to me the company really believes in taking care of the environment and keeping the community safe. I urge you to permit the Stibnite Gold Project as outlined under Alternative 2 and keep this project moving forward.