Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Timmy
Last name: Melton
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the public permitting process. I know this project will have a positive impact on the environment , communities surrounding the site and Idahoans.

There are many checks and balances in place to ensure Midas Gold Idaho follows through on its promises to restore the site. In fact, the company is required by law to set aside all of the money it needs for restoration before mining can begin. However, I am not worried about Midas Gold Idaho staying true to its word. The company has already started restoration work at the sit e. They have planted more than 60,000 trees to help reduce the amount of sediment going into the river, installed solar energy panels at site to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improved miles of road along the river to protect fish habitat.

Alternative 2 appears to be the best option for the project moving forward. In that alternative, the company decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8). The company would also reprocess legacy materials in the Meadow Creek Basin , SODA and Hecla Heap, which remove them as a source for leaching arsenic and antimony into the ground and surface water. The to analysis in the document (4.9-17) shows this will make further water degradation from these sources less likely in the future. Removing legacy tailings waste will also improve water quality in Meadow Creek Valley (4.12).

After reading through the alternatives proposed by the USFS, Alt 5 seems unacceptable . If private industry is willing to take on past legacies, what will happen to the environmental legacies at Stibnite if there is no action? What resources will the U.S. Government dedicate to solving the water quality and fish passage problems if Alt 5 is selected?

Drawing conclusions between the alternatives is easy using the tools provided on the USFS' project page and the Virtual Meeting Room. It makes it possible to participate in the comment period within the 60- day time frame. Another extension of the comment period is unnecessary.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Midas Gold Idaho's project as outlined in Alternative 2 in the DEIS.