



The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River has been heavily impacted by mining for more than 100 years and it needs repair.

THE RIVER

The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River flows 12 miles from the heart of Idaho's backcountry mountains to the valley floor near the Village of Yellow Pine. The river is a diverse ecosystem that provides habitat for chinook, steelhead and bull trout.

Unfortunately, the river has been impacted by more than a century of mining. Today, the river pours into an abandoned mine pit, salmon are blocked from their native spawning grounds and the water quality and habitat are degraded by sediment. The issues facing the river are not going away and Midas Gold has a plan to fix these problems.

The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River flows into the abandoned Yellow Pine pit and the high walls of the pit act as a barrier for fish trying to reach native spawning grounds. As a result, salmon have not been able to reach their spawning grounds for 80 years.

A few miles upstream from the Yellow Pine pit, hundreds of tons of sediment erode into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River every year. This sediment comes from the area near Blowout Creek where an earthen dam failed in the 1960s. During spring runoff, the river can look like chocolate milk as sediment washes downstream. Elevated sediment levels can clog fish gills, make it hard for them to see their food and reduce their ability to fight diseases. Excessive sediment also chokes off the oxygen supply to the gravel beds, reducing productivity of the salmon spawning habitat.

The Yellow Pine pit, two miles downstream, currently acts as a sediment trap and eventually catches about 70% of the sediment coming from Blowout Creek. However, the Yellow Pine pit is filling up with sediment and, in the not too distant future, it will no longer be able to capture significant amounts of sediment, which will then head downstream.

In addition, tens of millions of tons of tailings and waste rock, left behind from mining activities during the World War II era, lie abandoned near the river. These tailings pose a risk to the East Fork of the

EAST FORK OF THE SOUTH FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER Idaho

THREAT: Missing an opportunity to restore the river.

AT RISK: Water quality, historical salmon spawning habitat, fish populations and habitat.

SUMMARY

The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River sits in the heart of Idaho's backcountry. It is home to several species of salmon and trout, supports wildlife and is used for community recreation. The river, and key tributaries, run through the historic Stibnite Mining District and have been badly impacted by historical mining practices over the last century. Today, Midas Gold, a new Idaho-based and environmentally-progressive mining company wants to provide private investment to restore the river, paid for by the redevelopment of the site.



THE BIGGEST THREAT FACING THE RIVER IS THE MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE IT. DOING NOTHING WILL CONTINUE TO LET FISH HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY BE IMPACTED AND KEEP SALMON AND OTHER SPECIES BLOCKED FROM IMPORTANT SPAWNING GROUNDS.



South Fork of the Salmon River by potentially leaching arsenic and other metals into the river. Metals in the water can be harmful for insects, fish and wildlife. In fact, a recent U.S. Geological Survey study indicated concern over the arsenic and antimony in the area's water.

Today, private investment remains the most viable option to fix Stibnite's historical mining problems.

THE THREAT

The problems facing the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River are not new. Unless action is taken, fish will remain blocked from spawning grounds and fish habitat and water quality will remain degraded.

The biggest threat facing the river is inaction.



Hundreds of tons of sediment from Blowout Creek pour into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River

ic night and day and a flow pattern that gives fish resting pools. Midas Gold will then rebuild the natural channel of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River once it backfills the Yellow Pine pit in year seven of operations – permanently allowing salmon to swim upstream to their native spawning grounds. At minimum, the Stibnite Gold Project will open an additional 3.4 miles of fish habitat that is currently being blocked by the Yellow Pine pit and fish could potentially access up to 25 miles of new habitat.

To keep hundreds of tons of sediment out of the river, Midas Gold will install a rock drain at the site of the failed dam at Blowout Creek, then rebuild the stream channel. This will prevent excessive sediment from entering the river. It also allows the water table to rise to historical levels so native wetlands in the Blowout Creek meadow are restored.

In the very first years of operations, Midas Gold also proposes to reprocess millions of tons of historic tailings from former mining operations and store the remaining material in an engineered and state-of-the-art lined facility to keep metals out of the watershed.

Although some groups seem opposed to the Stibnite Gold Project, without it, there is no immediate solution to the ongoing legacy mining impacts. No one has come forward with a different solution nor the funding necessary for the river's rehabilitation. If we do nothing, water quality and fish habitat will only continue to suffer with each passing day.

Some groups claim more mining will only make the problems worse. However, today, there are strict federal standards that require storage of development rock and tailings in engineered facilities to ensure water quality is not negatively impacted.



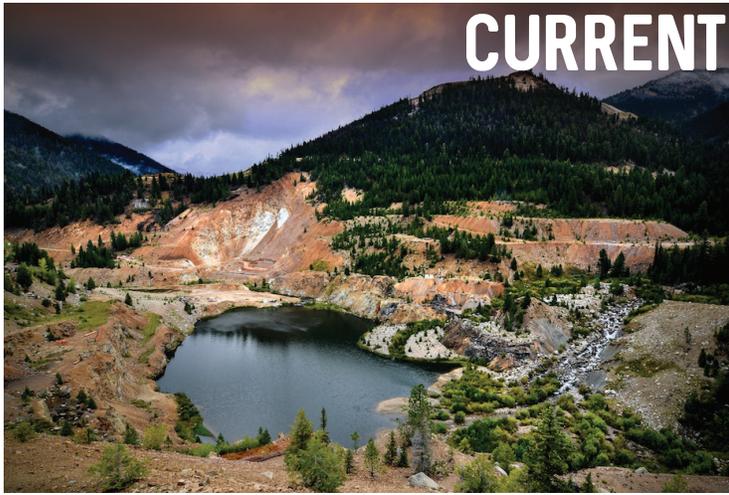
A tributary of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River surrounded by 10.5 million tons of historic spent ore and uncontained tailings

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Midas Gold Idaho has a plan to fix the problems left behind by historical mining operations. Midas Gold's proposed Stibnite Gold Project was purposefully designed to use mining as a tool for restoration. If granted permits to mine the area for gold and the critical mineral antimony, Midas Gold will have the funds necessary to finally restore this area that is so in need of repair.

The company plans to restore and enhance almost 13 miles of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and its tributaries. Stream restoration will include reconnecting salmon to their native spawning grounds during the project's early phases. At first, fish will be reconnected to their original watershed through a temporary 0.8-mile passage tunnel. Using proven conservation methods, the fifteen-foot passage is designed with smart lighting to mimic

CURRENT FUTURE



East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River flows directly into this historic mine pit, blocking fish from migrating upstream



The Stibnite Gold Project plans to reestablish the natural flow of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and open up miles of new habitat for fish

Those regulations did not exist during the heyday of the Stibnite Mining District.

Today, mining companies cannot simply walk away from projects and leave the environment in disrepair. Permitting a mine happens with much more scrutiny, which stops bad projects and allows good ones to move forward. Before any new mining project can begin, operators must set aside all the money needed for restoration. This ensures that, even if the unexpected happens, the funds are secured so restoration can move forward. Midas Gold must meet these standards before it can build the Stibnite Gold Project.

Historical mining caused many of the river's problems, but now today's mining is the solution. Midas Gold has this opportunity to clean up the legacies of the past with private money. The company's plan was designed from the outset with restoration in mind, and Midas Gold will operate in an entirely new regulatory environment from past operators.

TAKE ACTION

Doing nothing will not fix the problems. Fish habitat and water quality remain at risk if the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River is not restored. Midas Gold wants to make the private investment necessary to rehabilitate this important section of the Salmon River now, not ignore it.

Currently, the Stibnite Gold Project is going through a rigorous federal, state and local permitting process. The company must pass many difficult requirements before they can mine and restore the area. During this critical time, it is imperative river advocates and Idahoans let the U.S. Forest Service know they support Midas Gold's plan to restore the river.

The U.S. Forest Service will have a comment period on the company's plans in late 2018. Join us by asking the U.S. Forest Service to approve Midas Gold's plans to restore the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. To stay informed about the comment period, you can join the Support Stibnite Coalition by visiting www.supportstibnite.com or visit: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/payette/StibniteGold

HELP THE EAST FORK OF THE SOUTH FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER TODAY



1. Support the first viable plan in decades to bring the resources and expertise necessary to restore the river. Sign up with the U.S. Forest Service to know when it's time to share your comments. Visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/payette/StibniteGold
2. Join the hundreds of Idahoans who support repairing the environment and restoring an industry here at home. Visit www.supportstibnite.com to sign up today.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.SUPPORTSTIBNITE.COM

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