

USFS,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the U.S. Forest Service's permitting process. This is an important project for Valley County and will have a significant impact on the community. As someone who explores, plays and cares about this region of Idaho's backcountry, I want to make sure the Stibnite Gold Project is done the right way. I also happen to be an environmental engineer, who, in a previous role, led the coordination of CERCLA and NEPA efforts at a phosphate mine in Southeast Idaho a few years ago. It was a similar situation to Stibnite, in which reclamation and remediation were necessary, yet there is still a resource underground which may as well be extracted before the site is properly closed indefinitely.

Midas Gold Idaho believes in a local workforce and has promised to hire Idahoans whenever possible. The company will provide employees with training and help our state build a more skilled workforce. These jobs are not entry level positions and the skills are valuable in other industries outside of mining. Midas Gold estimates salaries will be two times higher than the local average in Valley County and, during operations, annual pay roll is expected to range \$48 to \$51 million. On the high end, the company may also provide 600 indirect jobs during operations. This can make a big difference in the life of many families.

Alternative 2 of the project can also make a big difference for the environment. Midas Gold will reprocess legacy materials in order to prevent them from leaching arsenic and antimony into the ground and surface water. The analysis in the DEIS (4.9-17) shows this will make further water degradation from these sources less likely in the future. Plus, under that same alternative, Midas Gold decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8) “making our roads safer.

The fact that Stibnite is willing to put so many resources into the cleanup of historic operations is a great plus for Idaho's wilderness. Without this project, I am not sure there are resources readily available to restore the corridor for the Salmon or to address historic tailings piles.

I strongly urge you to approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold in alternative 2. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide a huge benefit to our community and the local environment.

My opinions expressed here are mine alone and not of my past or current workplaces.

Respectfully,

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Environmental Engineer

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