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First name: robert

Last name: robinson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Robert B. Robinson

July 6, 2017

Payette National Forest

ATTN: Keith Lannom

Stibnite Gold EIS

500 North Mission Street Bldg. 2

McCall, ID 83638

Dear Sir:

I am writing in support of the Stibnite gold mine development. The project will be a great benefit to wage-earners in Central Idaho. Mining traditionally provides living-wage, nonseasonal employment. These are the kind of job opportunities that the U.S. needs so badly. The project's operators have shown that they will make every effort to minimize environmental damage resulting from the project. In my career, I have witnessed how mining operations go to great lengths to minimize impacts on the environment.

I hope the USFS is able to streamline and expedite the permitting process for the Stibnite project. I feel that with proper safeguards, the project can be developed with minimal degradation. A key factor is minimizing the area impacted by the mine operation. Every effort needs to be made to reduce the amount of land that the operation will affect. It is important to have a thorough restoration plan, backed by a reasonable bond, for the area that will be affected. Watershed rehabilitation needs to be a major consideration in the mine closure and restoration plan.

Stibnite represents a large investment that will significantly impact the economy of this area of Idaho. During these years of weak job growth, mining jobs are just the type of traditional, living-wage jobs that will be so beneficial to U.S. workers. I believe I cannot over-emphasize the value of the hundreds of jobs that will be created if the Stibnite project goes forward. These days, U.S. workers are suffering from the shortage of living-wage jobs of the kind that the project will provide.

While mining projects must have some environmental impact, the regulatory procedures and operators' desire to stay in compliance result in minimal amounts of degradation and risk. I hope the USFS is able to expedite and improve the permitting process for the Stibnite project. I feel the permitting process should be condensed and streamlined to bring projects into development with less delay. The permitting process has become too time-consuming and costly. I hope the permitting process for Stibnite will demonstrate a less onerous procedure.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Robinson