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Comments: I'm writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project.

I'm a Professor Emeritus in geology at Boise State University with a background in ore deposits and environmental issues. I and my colleagues teach an ore deposits course every few years where we have speakers from companies, universities and government agencies come to the class and talk about issues, including public policy, environmental, and permitting. My comments stem from this background.

Midas Gold Idaho and the Stibnite Gold Project is an exemplary case study of how to do things right. They have sincerely put the remediation of the old Stibnite mining area up front. This old mine will not be remediated without this project moving forward. When you examine the details of their proposed work it is clear that Midas understands the importance of this remediation work, how to do it, and how to make it cost-effective within the context of the mine project going forward. And, importantly, how to conduct the mining operations to minimize impacts on the region.

In short, Midas has created an example of how all legitimate issues can be addressed up front, in a thorough, honest and transparent way. It would be a shame for the Forest Service to deny or delay this project, to lose 100's of good paying jobs in an area that needs jobs, to deny tax revenues to the county and state, and to let this remediation fall on the taxpayer to do at some distant future date. There will always be opposition to the use of public lands by mining companies, and those voices need to be heard. This project, however, could well become a centerpiece example of how the Forest Service can work with companies and concerned citizens and groups to craft outcomes that truly work for the benefit of all.