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First name: Dedra

Last name: Williams

Organization: J.R. Simplot Company

Title: Administrative Assistant

Comments: Please accept the attached comments on behalf of the J.R. Simplot Company regarding the Midas Stibnite Gold Project.

The J.R. Simplot Company appreciates the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the Midas Gold, Stibnite Gold Project, Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO). Headquartered in Boise Idaho, the J.R. Simplot Company (Simplot) is a privately held agribusiness company, with businesses involving beef production, farming, food processing, phosphate mining, phosphate fertilizer manufacturing and retail fertilizer operations. Our company is deeply committed to conducting business sustainably which is supported by three core values:

[bull] Respect for resources - We are committed to using the best science in natural resource management, reclamation practices, waste reduction and compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

[bull] Spirit of innovation - We place a priority on creating and embracing new ideas and technologies that help us work smarter in all levels of operations to improve customer value, efficiency, lower costs and reduce operational impact.

[bull] Passion for people - We take care of the safety of our employees and our communities. We are highly dedicated to our customers, partnerships, philanthropy and volunteerism.

After reviewing the PRO, we feel that this project is consistent with our company's core values and provides unique opportunities in Idaho to improve natural resources, provide positive economic benefits to local communities and promote domestic resource independence and stability.

The natural resource benefits of this project are numerous and include environmental restoration and repair of an area that has been impacted by over 100 years of mining (most of which took place long before environmental standards were established that are in place today). Fish migration will be established for the first time since the 1930s in Meadow Creek. The project will eliminate sediment washing down the East Fork of Meadow Creek (Blowout Creek); also legacy tailings in the Meadow Creek drainage will be removed, reprocessed and then stored in a properly engineered facility. The natural flow of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River would be restored, which will have a positive impact on water quality and wildlife upstream and downstream. Approximately 3,600 trees will be planted annually on burnt-over and un-reclaimed land adjacent to the project. Besides environmental benefits, the project provides both economic and national mineral resource benefits. Approximately 600 persons will be employed with many more indirect jobs created by the project. This will help grow the local economy of Valley County and benefit the State of Idaho. The project will provide considerable state, local, and federal tax revenues, estimated in the 2014 Preliminary Feasibility Study to be \$329 million in federal corporate income taxes and \$86 million in State corporate income and mine license taxes. The project will provide the United States a source of antimony, where there is currently none. A domestic source of antimony is critical in alleviating foreign dependence and concerns of supply interruptions for a mineral that is essential to many military defense, consumer safety and energy products.

We support the opportunities this project represents and we encourage the U.S. Forest Service and cooperating federal and state agencies to proceed with the Plan of Restorations and Operations as the preferred alternative moving forward.