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Organization:

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Comments: I encourage the NFS to move forward as soon as possible and approve the plan submitted by Midas Gold for re-opening the Stibnite mine. My reasons are based upon two primary concerns:

1. Reclamation of the site from the damage done by previous mining operations, which would include rehabilitation of the waterways through the mine area and re-working and further mitigating the old tailings piles to prevent further environmental damage.
2. Employment opportunities that would arise from all aspects of the operation, including road building, mine site construction projects, mining operations and ongoing reclamation and final closing operations.

After almost a century of mining, the Stibnite mine site continues to be an environmental eyesore and potential disaster due to the failure of both the previous mining companies and the various government agencies involved in cleanup and reclamation. The actions taken in the past have been poorly thought out and implemented. Midas Gold has a plan that will correct these misguided efforts and will eventually return the area to an environmentally-friendly place where fish and other wildlife may once again thrive and people can again enjoy the many uses of this beautiful place.

My son is currently employed by Midas Gold as an on-site geologist. While the recreational economy that has been built over the years in Valley County provides some jobs, they tend to be low-paying, seasonal work that does not provide adequate income for most employees to afford the cost of living here. The jobs provided by Midas Gold would be better-paying, mostly long-term work that would help people in the county afford our high cost of living. The project would employ many skilled trade people, as well as professionals and other administrative people that tend to result in a more stable economy and community.

In my opinion, the plan proposed by Midas Gold benefits the people and environment of Valley County, Idaho and the entire country significantly more than the minimal environmental costs that may be incurred in road building, site improvements and ongoing mining operations. Hopefully the plan will be approved as soon as possible so that the project can move forward and its significant benefits can be realized.