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Organization:
Title:
Comments: 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.

Midas Gold Idaho is proposing a great project for our economy, our citizens and our environment. The Stibnite Gold Project would help to properly restore a brownfield site in Idaho's backcountry and provide a significant positive economic impact. In fact, if the project goes into production the company plans to invest $1 billion in Idaho and provide hundreds of jobs over the course of the mine's life. In fact, during operations, annual payroll at site would range from $48 million to $51 million. The company has promised to look to Idaho first for talent and supplies so this will have a huge trickledown effect. The salaries of the positions at Midas Gold Idaho will be two times higher than typical jobs in Valley County. The financial security these positions could bring to families could be life changing. I also appreciate that Midas Gold Idaho plans to have employees be on a two weeks on, two weeks off schedule. This allows Idahoans who live outside of Valley County, or who would not want to relocate to the area, the same opportunity to apply for these positions. Beyond the economic benefits, Alternative 2 really will provide improvements to the current environment at site. This proposal extends the lining in Meadow Creek to protect against streamflow reductions, limits the footprint of the project and eliminates the West End development rock storage facility and will reprocess legacy tailings. According to DEIS chapter 4, section 4.9, removing legacy tailings and managing water quality provides long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water. Current arsenic and antimony levels are 700 times higher than drinking water standards some places on the site.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Midas Gold Idaho's project as outlined in their Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations, alternative 2 in the DEIS.