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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. I am a native Idahoan and visit there often. I love Idaho and care about its future.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and contribute millions of dollars in taxes. This is the type of project our state needs. It would cost the company roughly approximately \$230 million each year to operate and contribute significant local and state tax revenue. As Midas Gold Idaho grows, it wants to help Idaho families grow along with it. The company has made a commitment to hire locally whenever possible. And they are going to help prepare Idahoans for these well-paying jobs by providing job training. The average salary of Midas Gold Idaho employees is anticipated to be \$80,000. Many individuals in this region have had to depend on seasonal work, having a steady paycheck could change many lives. Alternative 2 of the project will also help improve the environment. It will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water by reprocessing historic tailings (DEIS 4.9), improve productivity of fish species in the area by opening up access to more habitat upstream (DEIS 4.12), provide a net gain of 9.3 km of volitionally accessible intrinsic potential habitat for Chinook Salmon (table 4.12-29) and reprocess old tailings waste, would lead to long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9).

Reviewing Midas Gold's plans it is clear to me the company really believes in taking care of the environment and keeping the community safe. I urge you to permit the Stibnite Gold Project as outlined under Alternative 2 and keep this project moving forward.