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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 lives and is part of the community in Cascade, I care about this region of Idaho, and I want to make sure the Stibnite Gold Project is done the right way.

One of the biggest challenges facing Cascade and Valley County, is having high paying jobs for already trained and educated people that live in the area. I have a bachelors Degree in construction and a Master of Business Administration. I am currently working a job that is not equal to my experience or education. My Wife is the Music Teacher at Cascade Schools and we want to help heal this community from the loss it experienced when the Lumber mill closed and many jobs left the county. Midas Gold not only plans to hire hundreds of Idahoans but the company will provide employees with training to build a more skilled workforce in Idaho and in Valley County. This will encourage economic activity in the area and provide more jobs than just at the mine site. This commitment by the company will help benefit Idaho families and allow Idaho to attract new businesses in the future. To date, Midas Gold has spent over \$89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors. If the pr oject moves forward, the company will also invest heavily in environmental restoration, especially under alternative 2. During operations, Midas Gold will treat water to lower levels of arsenic, antimony and mercury in the river. This investment will cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). The company will also be able to increase productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations of chinook, bull trout and steelhead by opening up long-term access to blocked habitat (DEIS 4.2-39).

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. The community needs healing, and the mine area needs healing. I believe that when this project is started and the benefits are seen and experienced, those that oppose this will experience healing along with everything else. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to pick alternative 2 as the preferred alternative moving forward.