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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.

Alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project presents a plan to repair the environment and boost Idaho's economy. Historic mining operations, development of former town site and natural processes have resulted in significant degradation of many elements of the environment. Loss of fish passage, potential water degradation from previous mining activity and excessive erosion are all of great concern to Idahoans. Right now, fish haven't swam past an abandoned mine pit for more than 80 years. Midas Gold will reconnect fish passage before mining ever begins. According to 4.12 of the draft environmental impact statement, providing access to these historically blocked areas can improve the genetic diversity of these isolated fish populations. The Stibnite Gold Project would finance reclamation efforts to address these problems and in turn boost Idaho's economy. It is a win-win for everyone.

The Stibnite Gold Project will provide stable, well-paying jobs to up to 1,000 employees throughout the life of the project. On average, employees will make \$80,000 per year [acirc][euro]" twice as much as the average salary in Valley County. Overall, the company estimates the annual payroll will be approximately \$42 million per year.

Midas Gold Idaho will have a huge impact on the economy through the jobs it provides, the money it spends and taxes it will pay. It is estimated Midas Gold will pay \$329 million in federal corporate income taxes and \$86 Million in state corporate income and mine license taxes.

I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative 2.