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Comments: I am writing to express my views on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the Stibnite Gold Project is compelling for many reasons and it is a project I am committed to seeing come to fruition.

The Stibnite Gold Project will generate significant federal, state and local taxes over the life of the project. Estimate show the company will contribute $86 million in state taxes over two decades. According to a study conducted in 2017, compensation on the Stibnite Gold Project would average approximately $80,000 a year based on comparable operations in Idaho, as compared to $35,000 in the area surrounding the project currently. The economic benefits tied in with the environmental restoration of the site provide a win-win for the citizens who live in the surrounding communities, the state and the general population. For example, when fish are reconnected to habitat upstream, 4.12-39 of the DEIS shows this long-term access will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations.

The Stibnite Gold Project will be a major producer of gold and antimony. Today, we import almost all of our antimony from China. The U.S. government recently named antimony to its list of critical minerals because of its importance in the national defense and aerospace industries. The Stibnite Gold Project would be the only source of primary antimony production in the country.

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.

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select the modified plan of restoration and operations Midas Gold Idaho presented and permit the project.