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First name: Howard

Last name: McConnell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Jackson,

If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with the Stibnite Gold Project, they will reclaim an area impacted by historical mining, create hundreds of well-paying jobs and provide a huge boost to our economy in the process. It is a win-win for Valley County. We need to permit the project.

The Stibnite Gold Project, as presented in Alternative 2, could leave the historical Stibnite Mining District in better condition than it is today. It would result in better water quality in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River due to lower concentrations of antimony, mercury and arsenic (DEIS 4.9-70) and open an additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids before mining begins (DEIS 4.12-13). When you compare Alternative 2 with the other options, the choice of how to proceed is obvious. Alternative 3 and 4 would delay the start of the project by two years. Alternative 3 has a larger project footprint size and Alternative 4 would put traffic to the site directly next to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Alternative 5 would leave the site exactly as it is today [acirc][euro][ldquo] in desperate need of repair. The site needs attention and Alternative 2 would make sure it finally gets it.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on the project. I urge you to move forward with alternative two.

Best Wishes,

Name: Howard McConnell