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Comments: Tam writing to voice my support for the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho.

The Stibnite Gold Project would bring much needed economic development to Valley County on an immense scale. Since 2009, Midas Gold has spent \$100 million on research and preliminary planning. Upon approval of the project, the company would immediately spend \$1 billion more to construct the site. That money will be passed on to Idahoans through employee salaries, state and federal taxes, and partnerships with local businesses. Over the duration of the project, this would change the lives of thousands of residents and provide a lasting boost to local growth.

In addition to contributing to the local economy, profits from Midas Gold's operations would finance the restoration of land damaged by historical mining activities. The proposal calls for the cleanup of old tailings that leech toxic metals into rivers as well as the restoration of streams used by salmon to migrate upstream. Regulations require that funding for restoration be set aside before mining begins, so approving Midas Gold's proposal would guarantee that the environment sees a net improvement over the lifetime of the project. According to the agency's draft Environmental Impact Statement, removing legacy tailings and managing water provides long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water. (Ch. 4 Section 4.9)

The combination of significant environmental and economic benefits leaves very little reason to consider blocking Midas Gold's proposal. Over the last decade, they have done their due diligence to ensure success through extensive research and community engagement. It would be a shame to further delay a project with such clear advantages.

Please approve Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho and their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations.