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Comments: I want to share my strong support for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project.

The Stibnite Gold project has the potential to dramatically strengthen Idaho's economy. It would employ 500 Idahoans, many of them Valley County locals, in jobs that pay far above the average regional salary. It would also create more than \$200 million in state and local taxes, which could be used to improve roads and schools. The twenty-year timespan of the project means that multiple generations of Idahoans would benefit, either directly or indirectly, from Midas Gold's work.

As I found in the draft environmental impact statement, Midas Gold has done everything they can to mitigate risks of environmental harm from the project, as they focused on actively improving the health of Stibnite's nature through the design of their project. Midas Gold intends to collect and process more than 10 million tons of tailings left behind from previous mining to end ongoing pollution. The DEIS found that this would mean a long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water (4.9).

Midas Gold will also repair diverted waterways to allow salmon to access their native spawning grounds for the first time in more than 80 years. By the time the project concludes, the worksite and its surrounding area will be fully restored to their natural condition.

I believe that the combination of environmental and economic benefits offered by the Stibnite Gold project makes approving it an easy choice. I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 and let Idahoans get to work.