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Comments: This is an official comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project. After reviewing your document, I support the approval of Alternative 2, enabling Midas Gold Idaho to move forward with its plan to mine in the Stibnite region, bringing economic benefits to this region, while taking steps to mitigate the environmental impacts of its activities; and to restore areas impacted by its operations and legacy mining.

As you know, the economy of Valley County is significantly resource-based. This is true now and historically. Logging, mining, ranching, and farming are all part of the fabric of the region. In this regard, the Midas Gold project fits neatly into this pattern.

While area residents develop and utilize natural resources, we also appreciate and protect our natural areas-and we want to preserve them for the future. In other words, we seek balance when it comes to the environment.

I have no objections to the return of mining to the Stibnite region, provided that it is done in a responsible way. The area of course has been vigorously mined in the past mining that has helped Idaho and our nation, but has left environmental challenges in its wake.

Midas Gold's Alternative 2 proposal represents the most feasible, economically sound way to address the environmental damage in the area left by historic mining. The proposal will restore wetlands; reconnect the east fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River; repair topographic scarring (at Blowout Creek); and remove and safely store hazardous mining waste (tailings).

In return for this investment in environmental repair, Midas Gold will be allowed to mine-if permitted by the U.S. Forest Service. This seems like a fair and just exchange, which is in the interest of the local community and the broader public.

I therefore urge you to approve Alternative 2, which improves Alternative 1 (and limits environmental impacts by comparison) and does not entail the delays of Alternatives 3 and 4. Thank you for considering my views. I hope to hear Alternative 2 is approved as soon as possible.