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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.

Mining in the area of the proposed project in the Stibnite Mining District started in the early 20th century. Gold, silver tungsten and antimony were mined until the end of that century. During World War II (WWII) goldmining was curtailed by Executive Closure Order ([acirc][euro]oeOrder L-208[acirc][euro][bull]) which had been issued by the War Production Board, a government entity created in 1941 to assist with converting America[rsquo]s civilian industry to wartime production. Mining in the Stibnite District continued due the rich ores containing tungsten and antimony, in addition to gold and silver, which were critical resources for the war effort, supporting the manufacture of steel and ammunition. From 1941 to 1945 workers at Stibnite mined and milled more tungsten and antimony than any other mine in the United States. During this wartime period Stibnite produced 40 percent of the nation's domestic supply of tungsten and 90 percent of its antimony.

Mining and manufacturing activity during the war years and up until the 1970s when environmental laws including the Clean Air Act of 1970 (CAA), Clean Water Act of 1972 CWA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) and others, went mainly unregulated. These [acirc][euro]oe[pre-regulation][acirc][euro][bull] mines, mills, smelters and other early mineral extraction activities account for the lion share of mining-related environmental damage in this country.

The regulations associated with these environmental laws (Acts) prohibit anyone from attempting to cleanup orphan sites, acting as a Good Samaritan without incurring unlimited liability forever. Permitting state of the art mining and processing activities incentivizes mining companies to remediate these sites using current practices, reprocessing previously discarded waste to reduce its exposure to weathering, leaching into streams or groundwater or becoming a windblown hazard to the surrounding environment.

Pre-regulation mining in 1938 resulted in a focus of efforts on the Yellow Pine Pit. Miners were able to extract large quantities of gold from this area of the site. These operations at the pit blocked fish passage and to this day fish in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River cannot swim upstream past the site.

Alternative 2 includes an interim fish tunnel to facilitate the passage of salmon and other species upstream to their ancestral habitat located upstream of the project. This feature accelerates the correction of this impact upon a critical member of the ecosystem. Upon completion of mining of the Yellow Pine Pit, it is proposed to be backfilled with waste rock from adjacent open pit mines. An

engineered sinuous streambed and meadow-like cover will be constructed to replace the fish tunnel, providing a more natural pathway to spawning grounds upstream.

Mining activities on public land are required to propose a Reclamation and Closure Plan to the managing agency for approval. Financial assurance to ensure that the approved reclamation and closure activities are performed are posted in an approved form including performance bonds or other statutorily approved instruments.

Mining and milling activities proposed in Alternative 2 will be performed under the strict review of State and Federal regulatory environmental and land management agencies to ensure protection of the environment which was not the case during the historic activities.

The Stibnite Mine Project includes numerous positive aspects for the environment and the people of the State of Idaho. Approval of this project will facilitate the cleanup of an historic mine site that would be difficult to do without the financial incentive for a company to take on this risk.

This proposed project in the form of the proposed alternative provides for over 500 high paying jobs and associated employee benefits, a substantial financial investment in the State of Idaho. It will improve the state of the environment in the area, utilizing state of the art environmental controls and technology. Reestablishing the historic upstream fishery is an early win for the wildlife and people of Idaho.

Following mining, reclaiming disturbed ground, including that attributed to historic mining activity will all but erase any trace of human activity in the area. This project will improve the United States's independence through domestic production of several critical strategic minerals at a time where countries abroad have shown a propensity to withhold their exports to further their power on the world stage.

I fully support the approval of the Proposed Action.