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First name: Pamela

Last name: Thier

Organization: Valley County Republican Women (VCRW)

Title: President

Comments: U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest ATTN: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor 500 North Mission Street  
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Jackson:

The Valley County Republican Women (VCRW) support the Stibnite Gold Project and Midas Gold's efforts to restore the old Stibnite mining area and to mine gold and antimony. We want you to know we support Alternative 2.

The VCRW is a diverse group of about 30 mostly women and a handful of males as members and associate members. We represent all of Valley County; comprised of some members that have resided here for more than 70 years. We are farmers, retired forest service employee, military, law enforcement, and span the gambit of employed, retired, highly educated, and concerned citizens. We are well versed on the issues and implication of mining in Valley County.

We recognize Midas Gold as valued community leaders and partners that have the best interests of Valley County in mind. Midas has always acted in an ethical manner. We believe Midas' establishment of the Stibnite Advisory Council and the Stibnite Foundation as bedrock institutions that reflect their caring and progressive attitudes within our communities.

We support Alternative 2 as the most practical approach and one that will be best for the communities impacted by the Stibnite Gold Project. Alternative 2 basically improves on Alternative 1- it is an updated and modified plan. Alternative 3 places the Tailings Storage Facility in reach of the East Fork South Fork Salmon river, Alternative 4 contains significant transportation and road issues, and Alternative 5 is to do nothing leaving the area the mess that it is in today.

We support the Stibnite Gold Project for multiple reasons but we want to focus on two major points. First, Midas Gold is already improving and cleaning up the mess that exists at Stibnite now. Its restoration efforts will enhance the quality of water and improve the area from a conservational perspective. With improved water and other enhancements, the South Fork Salmon spawning bed and passage issues will be greatly improved and restored.

Beyond the conservational enhancement, the economic improvements that Midas Gold will bring will be significantly important to Valley County. It is projected that Midas Gold will bring

over 1,000 jobs throughout the life of the project. The trickle-down effect may include another 1,000 jobs. The importance of the Midas' 1,000 jobs is significant because they will be well paying jobs providing salaries and benefits that will exceed \$80,000 per year. Additionally, the impact to our tax base will further help our communities.

The membership of the VCRW strongly supports the Stibnite Gold Project for the two primary reasons provided. There are numerous other reasons but our membership believes these are the strongest reasons.