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Title: Estimator

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of Midas Gold Idaho's public permitting process. I am a project manager with Granite Excavation Inc. here in Valley County. Our company is locally owned and operated and employs more than 100 people across the state. I have the privilege of working closely with the team at Midas Gold in recent years, and I cannot imagine a better partner for our community nor a better company to finally clean up the historic Stibnite mining district.

As you know, the Stibnite Gold Project is a huge opportunity, not just for Idaho, but the entire country. Let's start with the minerals in the ground. While the site is rich in gold it also has deposits of antimony - one of 35 minerals designated critical by the U.S. government. In fact, the Stibnite Gold Project is the largest known deposit of antimony in the country. This is mineral crucial to the defense and energy industries and is in many items we use every day, from cell phones to solar panels. Unfortunately, we currently depend heavily on China and Russia for this mineral. Permitting this project will allow us to have a domestic resource for this very important mineral.

In addition to lessening our dependence on unreliable foreign sources of antimony, this project will bring real, family-wage jobs to an area of Idaho that's been historically reliant on seasonal work at far lesser wages. During construction, Midas plans to employ as many as 700 people and, then during the years of operating the project, the company would have nearly 600 employees, jobs that will include, among many more, engineers and laborers, equipment managers and project leaders, geologists and surveyors. And the best part, Ms. Jackson, is Midas is committed to hiring locally whenever possible - so these jobs will be mostly going to our friends, neighbors and locally owned companies like Granite Excavation.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't point out the extensive steps Midas is taking to make finally clean up Stibnite. Generations of past mining activity have left that site a mess. In Alternative 2, Midas will, among other steps, remove legacy tailings and waste which will improve water quality in the Meadow Creek Valley, finally fix Blowout Creek, pick up and replace more than 10 million tons of unlined legacy waste rock and tailings eliminating in the process a potential source of water degradation in the valley. Midas is the only entity coming to the table with the plan, the resources and the commitment to finally improve the environment at Stibnite. As a local resident, I see how this company, which is made of Idahoans, has embraced the community, worked to provide the safest plan that reflects years of community input and meetings. They are committed to us, committed to Valley County and the state of Idaho. This

project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit Alternative 2.