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Comments: Residents of Valley County have long been hoping for someone to come in and fix the mess that has been left behind in Stibnite. Now, we finally have the opportunity to see this come true. But that can only happen if the U.S. Forest Service chooses to move forward with Alternative Two presented by Midas Gold Idaho. I am asking you to do so without delay.

To say the water quality in the stretch of the Salmon River that runs through Stibnite is poor would be an understatement. The levels of arsenic, antimony, and other metals are so high that it is not suitable for most fish and aquatic life, let alone drinking. This is because waste materials from decades of mining activity have just been left unenclosed out in Meadow Creek Valley, leaching metals into the water.

In Alternative Two of their proposal for the Stibnite Gold Project, Midas Gold has described how it intends to pick up, reuse or reprocess these materials, and then properly store them in a state-of-the-art tailings storage facility so that they are completely separated from the surrounding water supply. This, according to your own draft Environmental Impact Statement, will help improve water quality as removing legacy tailings and waste will lower antimony and arsenic levels in this part of the Salmon River (4.9-70).

When compared to the other options put forward, Alternative Two provides the best possible solution and safest location for the tailings storage facility in order to continue protecting the water quality in this area.