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Comments: I am writing this letter to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project draft EIS. I am a life-long Valley County resident, current geoscience major with an emphasis in hydrology at Boise State University, and previous employee of Midas Gold Idaho. Having worked with the people at Midas Gold, seeing the condition of the site firsthand, and even measuring the water quality of both the groundwater and surface water reservoirs, I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to accept Alternative II of the proposed site plan.

The bottom line is that the Stibnite mine site needs to be cleaned up, and Midas Gold is the only party willing and able to do so. The current site has numerous unconfined tailings piles and leech fields that release a significant amount of arsenic, antimony, and cyanide into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Pollution near the river's headwaters impacts a massive area both within and outside the Payette National Forest. Additionally, hundreds of tons of sediments from Blowout Creek are released into the watershed every year. Alternative II offers the best solution to reduce the amount of harmful metals and suspended sediments released into Idaho's waterways and beyond.

Of equal importance is the economic impact the construction, operation, and continued monitoring of a reopened mine site would provide. There would be millions of dollars in local, state, and federal taxes generated each year and the mine would provide much-needed, well-paying jobs for local residents. Housing and living costs continue to rise in and around the Boise area, one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the entire country, and especially in Valley County which is the prime location for second and vacations homes for people living in the Treasure Valley. The reopening of the Stibnite mine site would provide hundreds jobs to local residents that would not only help provide citizens with livable and sustainable wages but also help the county as a whole grow and stabilize economically to cope with the increased amounts of tourism and residences in the area.

Midas Gold is a company that wants help restore a damaged area of the Idaho wilderness and is driven by local employees who care about their own communities and backyards. As I am sure you are aware, these are honest Idahoans doing what is best for themselves and others. If further mining operations are not conducted at Stibnite, the site will continue to damage our waterways indefinitely and be a wasted economic and critical resource. This is an opportunity, in accordance with the Forest Service's mission to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests," to approve a project that will provide sustainability to the current generation of Americans and solve a significant environmental problem and set an example for future generations. There are enough resources at Stibnite where if Midas Gold is declined in its efforts, other companies will follow. Why refuse to work with a company that is so dedicated to the restoration of the site while continuing to allow the persistence of current conditions?

I implore you to adopt Alternative II of the Stibnite Gold Project draft EIS.