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Comments: I write to you today to encourage you to support the Stibnite Gold Project and urge you to accept Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho and analyzed by the US Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I believe this project will provide a great many benefits for our state that we cannot afford to pass up .

Of course that includes the jobs and revenue the project will bring, but it also includes the restoration of the Stibnite Mining District and the surrounding parts of the Payette National Forest. As you know, the local ecosystem around the mine site has been only been getting worse for years, as previous mining projects not subject to today's strict standards left behind a long list of environmental problems.

Among the worst is the absolutely terrible water quality. If the waters aren't full of tons of sediment from an erosion problem, then they're probably loaded with dangerously high levels of arsenic, antimony, and mercury. Having studied the water for nearly a decade, Midas found this is likely due to water passing over the many tons of old tailings and spent heap ore, leaching metals into the surface water.

Midas Gold's plan in Alternative 2 includes picking up these old tailings and ore and storing them in a new facility engineered to prevent interaction with water. As the DEIS says, these efforts to remove legacy tailings and waste will improve water quality in Meadow Creek Valley . Improving water quality is a key part of restoring this area of Payette National Forest and protecting local wildlife.

Of the options studied by the DEIS, Alternative 2 offers the most realistic solution with the greatest environmental benefits. I ask that the USFS accept this alternative and help us get this project started as soon as we can.