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Comments: I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold.

The future of west central Idaho is growing increasingly uncertain. Ever since mining left Stibnite in the 1990s, no industry has stepped up to guarantee similarly stable jobs. Today, residents of Valley County largely depend on tourism and retail for employment. In the midst of a global pandemic and with a possible recession looming, it is likely that many will soon find themselves out of work. To help mitigate future crises, it is crucial that we encourage the return of permanent industries. Approving the Stibnite Gold Project is a perfect way to do so.

Midas Gold's proposal would immediately inject \$1 billion into our economy and would provide jobs for more than 500 people. The success of their project would encourage other companies to develop similar proposals, creating the possibility of compounding economic stimulus for decades. It would be difficult to overstate just how transformative that process could be for our communities.

Midas Gold also realized that the region surrounding the project is a popular area for snowmobilers so they actively collaborated with local snowmobiling organizations to mitigate impact from their activities. Midas Gold designed Alternative 2 to increase safety and establish access routes to the site that keeps the public away from mining operations.

Valley County is not a wealthy area, and many others share my concerns about our local economy. Midas Gold is offering a lifeline that might make all the difference between a difficult future and a prosperous one. I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to approve the Alternative 2 by Midas Gold Idaho.