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First name: Willie E

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for alternative 2 of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project. There are many reasons to support this project but my main concern is for the restorative nature of the planned mining endeavor.

As the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River that passes through Stibnite, it must travel by 10.5 million tons of old, spent ore deposits and tailings materials from decades of mining activity. This degrades water quality in the river. Midas Gold Idaho will remove, reuse, and reprocess these tailings and waste rock, which your own draft environmental impact statement says will help the local ecosystem by reducing the high concentrations of metals that have leached into the water. In Chapter 4 of the draft EIS, it says removing legacy tailings and waste lowers concentrations of antimony and arsenic in the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River (4.9-70).

Additionally, I have had opportunity to work directly with the leadership of Midas and I found them to be forthright and eager to understand the needs of our local community of Yellow Pine. It would have been easy to disregard the needs of a small community with a tiny fulltime residency but we found them to work diligently with our village to find solutions for our concerns about access to the Stibnite area and beyond for the economic benefit and historical significance to us. I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Midas Gold Idaho's project as outlined in their Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations, alternative 2 in the DEIS.

As a Board member of the Yellow Pine Water Users Association I do desire Midas to consider the effect an influx of residents could potentially have on the infrastructure of our town. Though I am aware that Midas does not plan to house staff in Yellow Pine we are concerned that there may be unintended growth through family or professionals deciding to relocate to the area. Mitigation considerations should be built into the plan should there be an unexpected growth

The USFS has provided meaningful time to submit comments and It is my hope that the comment period have no further delays.