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Last name: Valenzuela

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Linda Jackson,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

I am impressed by Midas Gold's plans to clean up water quality conditions at the site by removing sediment and old materials blocking the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Today, steelhead and Chinook salmon cannot access spawning grounds because they are blocked by an abandoned mining pit. Midas will address this issue before mining even begins [acirc][euro]" reconnecting fish for the first time in more than 80 years. The company will build a fish passageway in the short term and eventually restore full access to 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of fish spawning habitat above the Yellow Pine pit. If we do not allow Midas Gold to move forward with their plans, it is highly unlikely anyone else will provide the funds needed to reconnect fish to this currently lost habitat.

The Stibnite Gold Project will provide stable, well-paying jobs to up to 1,000 employees throughout the life of the project. On average, employees will make \$80,000 per year [acirc][euro]" twice as much as the average salary in Valley County. Overall, the company estimates the annual payroll will be approximately \$42 million per year.

Midas Gold Idaho will have a huge impact on the economy through the jobs it provides, the money it spends and taxes it will pay. It is estimated Midas Gold will pay \$329 million in federal corporate income taxes and \$86 Million in state corporate income and mine license taxes.

Third-party analysis estimates for every job created by the Stibnite Gold Project, another indirect job would be created in the community. This trickle-down effect will have a positive impact for working Idahoans and the economy.

The Stibnite Gold Project will be a major producer of gold and antimony. Today, we import almost all of our antimony from China. The U.S. government recently named antimony to its list of critical minerals because of its importance in the national defense and aerospace industries. The Stibnite Gold Project would be the only source of primary antimony production in the country.

For the above reasons and many more, please move forward with alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project as it is important to all Idahoans. The comment period provides plenty of time to read the DEIS and submit comments. Further extensions of the comment period are unnecessary and will needlessly delay the project.