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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Phil Davis, my family has been a part of Idaho since the civil war starting with mining in Idaho City, staking and selling a claim then farming in the new town of Boise diverting the first water out of the Boise River, then feeding the miners in Idaho City and also Silver City. My family also had a ranch near Van Wick before the Cascade Reservoir covered it with water. My father bought his first ranch near Cascade on Warm Lake Hwy. in 1940 and we have expanded and operated it since. I say this to show that my family is highly vested in the history and economy of Valley County and Idaho.

By living here most of my life I have witnessed and been part of many changes in Valley County. For an example, I served as a Valley County Commissioner from 1996-2006 and dealt with the many detrimental challenges of transitioning from a resource-based economy to more of a recreation-based economy. In my youth we had a very secure logging, milling, ranching and some mining economy.

Although mining had dramatically slowed from what it had been in previous decades it was still a significant benefit to the local economy.

As I took office as a Valley County Commissioner it was becoming obvious that the natural resource economy we had enjoyed was becoming threatened primarily due to unfounded environmental activists, aimed at stopping resource extraction industries while creating a new industry funded by litigation against the federal agencies. This effort was very effective and still is hindering management of our federal lands.

During my tenure as a commissioner, the Stibnite Mine was considered as a "Superfund Site." The Valley County Commissioners opposed this option because of the massive expense and detrimental impression this would put on the county. I believe what Midas Gold is proposing is a much better solution to solving the environmental issues left from the extraction of minerals which were very important in helping us win WWII.

I understand the concerns of leftover scars and damage to the environment from historic practices and methods by extraction industries. I also know we have greatly improved in knowledge and ability to continue logging or mining to meet the needs of society in a way which will not harm the environment and can also fix what happened in the past.

I have witnessed through hearings and presentations for the proposed Midas Gold project to re[shy] establish the Stibnite Mine area that the practices and methods used will not only limit environmental consequences to the greatest extent possible, but remediate the effects of the past.

I appreciate the effort of Midas Gold to limit the consequences of travel through the county by coordinating with local government, with road improvements and coordinating with agencies to re[shy] route roads away from streams to protect water quality.

Valley County will greatly benefit from the return of quality, living wage jobs, that have been sorely missed since the removal of the sawmills and logging jobs that went away with the proper management of federal owned timber lands. As a lifelong resident, I will surely appreciate that the federal government will again keep the promise to protect the watersheds while enhancing the economy of communities adjacent to these lands and approve Alternative 2 during the NEPA process.