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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the U.S. Forest Service's permitting process. This is an important project for Valley County and will have a significant impact on the community. As someone who cares about this region of Idaho's backcountry and as an environmental health professional, I want to make sure the Stibnite Gold Project is done the right way.

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. As you can imagine, 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).

I urge you to approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold in Alternative 2, it is the best of the alternatives outlined by the USFS. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide a huge benefit to our community and the local environment. The USFS has taken meaningful measures to ensure the public has had enough time and resources during the public comment period.