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Title:

Comments: As an employee of Western States CAT, I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

Local impacts on the economy from Midas Gold's direct job creation are estimated at \$18.1 million per year during construction, \$18.5 million per year during operations and \$3.6 million per year during reclamation. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold Idaho has prioritized public access to Idaho's backcountry. In order to ensure safety of the community during construction and operations, Midas Gold Idaho plans to use to Burntlog Road. The company feels Stibnite road is too dangerous to safely transport employees and equipment. Burntlog Road was used by miners many years ago who were headed to Thunder Mountain. This historical route minimizes travel by creeks and rivers that are imperative to fish habitat and takes advantage of existing infrastructure.

I am concerned with Alternative 4 because it puts mine traffic adjacent to the river. It also delays the project by another two years. The same is true for Alternative 3. With so many potential positive impacts, the project should not be delayed. And Idaho should not miss out on these opportunities, which would happen if the USFS moves forward with Alternative 5.

I appreciate your time and thoughtfulness. For the reasons stated in my letter above, please permit the Stibnite Gold Project using Alternative 2 and let Idahoans see the benefits of this important project.