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Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly affect my community and me. As an employee of Western States CAT, we have worked with Midas Gold Idaho in the past and been community partners in this area for nearly a decade. We know Midas Gold Idaho is not your typical mining company and ask that you adopt Alternative 2 laid out in the draft environmental impact statement so that Idaho can see the economic and environmental benefits of the Stibnite Gold Project.

The project will bring huge economic benefits to the rural communities surrounding the project site. Midas Gold will directly employ 400-500 employees during construction and operations. Payroll is expected to exceed \$34 million. These numbers do not even capture the indirect jobs nearby towns will see from the mining operations up at the Stibnite Gold Project.

Additionally, we cannot accept Alternative 5, the no action alternative for the sake of the environment. Without action, necessary reclamation activities would not be performed and the area would continue to suffer from sedimentation, erosion, blocked fish passages and more. Even the draft environmental impact statement agrees past mining activity has "resulted in long term impacts to the natural topography and the SGP activities could result in removal and/or stabilization of these past-mining impacts." (4.2.7)

This project is a huge opportunity for Idaho's people and an ecosystem that is desperate need of repair. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit Alternative 2 so this brownfield site can finally be restored.