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Comments: I am writing today to urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve Alternative 2 for the Stibnite Gold Project as presented by Midas Gold Idaho and reviewed by the United States Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Study. As Vice President of Permitting for the Midas Gold Idaho, and as a native Idahoan, I was proud to play a role in helping guide this project through the permitting process with various government agencies. I believe, once approved, this project will bring some welcome changes to the environment surrounding Stibnite as well as new opportunities for local residents and communities.

Every step of the way, Midas Gold Idaho has sought to involve local communities in the planning and design of the Stibnite Gold Project. That began with entering into a community agreement with eight of the surrounding communities in Valley County. Through this agreement, and by forming the Stibnite Advisory Council—a group of local residents representing the communities that entered into the agreement—we have been able to solicit feedback and input from the communities that will be most impacted by this project to ensure their needs are reflected in the final plan.

In fact, after hearing from local community members, we made a number of updates to our original Plan for Restorations and Operations (PRO). This modified PRO includes updates that would set aside more areas for environmental reclamation, minimizing footprint by eliminating the West End DRSF and partially backfilling Hangar Flats Pit, while also addressing a number of transportation route concerns voiced by local community members. That includes working to ensure our ongoing operations do not close off the surrounding areas to outdoor enthusiasts and other recreationalists.

As an avid hunter and ATV user myself, I understand how important it is to preserve access to the wide stretches of backcountry that provide a place for Idahoans to enjoy all that the outdoors have to offer in Central Idaho. As part of our plans in Alternative 2, Midas Gold has made sure to come up with alternative access road that allow for locals and visitors alike to access the surrounding areas that have become so popular with snowmobilers, anglers, kyakers, hunters and many other groups.

That includes updating access roads to ensure public access through the Stibnite Mining District to Thunder Mountain, which is one thing we heard local communities express support for time and again throughout the planning process. In redesigning access roads, we still made sure that the solutions we proposed prioritized safety for visitors above all else. We have also worked with local snowmobiling organizations to ensure a snowmobile parking lot will be constructed near the facility to allow for seasonal access to the surrounding area.

Additionally, Midas Gold knows that final approval for this project will rely on the project meeting all the necessary environmental and financial assurance regulations and safety standards that are required by modern mining companies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the many other state and federal laws and regulations. By working with local communities and regulators at every level of government, I believe we have come up with a plan that will help to not only mitigate the environmental problems that exist today, but will put in place strict safety measures to ensure these mistakes are not repeated in the future. The Stibnite Gold Project provides an opportunity to restore the long-neglected environment around the Stibnite mine, including the Salmon River. Due to generations of mining activity in the past, the area has seen the water quality in the river and surrounding streams decline; local fish populations dwindle due to being cut off from their natural spawning habitat; and host of other environmental problems. The health of this region and its visual and habitat qualities will be improved through the investment made by the Stibnite Gold Project.

By leveraging 21st century mining techniques coupled with environmental reclamation efforts, we believe the

Stibnite Gold Project could be just the thing to turn this all around. That is why we have put restoration front and center in our design. These efforts will include cleaning up and properly storing many tons of old, leftover mining materials; reconnecting fish to their natural habitat; and addressing the Blowout Creek erosion and sedimentation problem that has been going on for years.

Midas Gold Idaho has been in this community for the past decade, working with local residents, businesses, and regulators to come up with the best possible plan to restore this area, redevelop it in an environmentally responsible way, and ensure that everyone's voice has been heard in the process. I hope that you will accept Alternative 2 and help ensure this project breaks ground as soon as possible.