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First name: Paul

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good morning,

I am writing in support of the Midas Gold plan to reopen the Stibnite Mine. I have been following this project for several years. I have been impressed with Midas Gold's efforts to communicate its plans, integrate itself in the local communities in more ways than just mining, and to stress its willingness to conduct restoration and remediation needed from past mining practices. I believe this project will provide strong economic benefits to Valley County and the state of Idaho. It would make valuable natural resources available to the U.S. economy, reducing dependence from foreign countries.

Several years ago, my son completed his Eagle Scout project in the area of the abandoned mine, planting bare root willows along upper Meadow Creek (above the Glory Hole) to increase shade and improve fish habitat. This area has good potential for salmon spawning habitat, except currently no salmon or other species can access this reach due to past mining practices. The Midas Gold plan calls for remediating downstream river areas, and reconstructing the stream channel so that salmon, bull trout, and other species can once again access these upstream areas. A few years ago my son and his wife were in the area, and decided to see if they could check on the willows. They noticed a Midas Gold vehicle, and stopped to make sure it was ok to proceed. The Midas Gold staff member not only agreed, but invited them on a personal tour of the facilities to convey its plans for development and restoration. That was certainly not necessary, but it demonstrates Midas Gold's strong efforts at community outreach.

Modern mining companies often get a bad rap by being considered the same as historic mining companies that operated before environmental impacts were considered. Midas Gold will be required to mine responsibly under close government oversight, and conduct reclamation when the project is completed. In addition, the Midas Gold plan calls for remediation and reclamation of areas impacted by previous mining. I don't see anyone else stepping up to do that and I believe strongly that this is needed.

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Thank you for considering the Stibnite Gold Project in this Environmental Impact Statement. I encourage the Agencies to approve this project..

Name: Paul Spillers