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Comments: I love where I live. But the companies who have mined in Valley County, Idaho in years past have not treated it with respect and are that it deserves, and left scars and harmful legacies on the land. Fortunately, we now have a chance to restore and responsibly use the land, thanks to Midas Gold. Because I care about Idaho, its land, and its communities, I fully support Alternative 2.

It makes sense that people are wary of yet another mining operation coming into Valley County, because the damage from past companies has been significant to say the least. Mining tailings and waste were left and/or not properly disposed of and remain as a scar on the landscape, harmful to water quality and wildlife in the area. Large quantities of sediment are still deposited into the river system because of a dam failure that occurred decades ago. And the diversion of the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River has restricted and harms migratory fish populations. But despite all of this clear damage and irresponsibility, previous mining operations and companies cannot be held accountable and federal agencies cannot be sued.

This is why we need Midas Gold. They are investing millions of dollars and countless hours into not only planning the safest and most sustainable mining operation possible, but also to restoring the landscape and addressing these problems-problems that are not likely to be addressed successfully by anyone else.

But why trust this mining company? Well, Alternative 2 is actually a revised plan based on Midas Gold's original Plan of Operations and Restorations, which they painstakingly improved upon based on scientific data, regulators, stakeholders, and community members. Furthermore, this project has been reviewed by the U.S. Forest Service and several state and federal agencies and boasts a favorable Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Midas Gold has made every effort to come up with a plan that is beneficial to everyone: their industry, the community, and especially the environment.

I, like many others, believe that Midas Gold is our only chance to fix the damage left behind by past mining operations. They have shown that they are invested in the wellbeing of the area and have respect for Idaho and its landscape. That is why I support Alternative 2, and I am asking you to do so as well.