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Comments: I understand that there are many competing viewpoints when it comes to the Stibnite Gold Project, but on this matter, the U.S. Forest Service should listen to the voices of everyday Idahoans who will stand to gain new jobs and stronger economies once this project is approved. As one of those folks, I'd like to offer my two cents.

Like many parts of the country, rural Idaho communities have suffered under the recent economic downturn. Especially under these circumstances, it is more important than ever to support private investments that will help create hundreds of much-needed local jobs, strengthen business opportunities statewide, and contribute significant amounts of local and state tax revenue. The proposed project at the Stibnite district will do all of this and more.

From the get-go, Midas Gold has been using Idaho workers and hiring locally. They have already spent nearly \$70 million with Idaho vendors, suppliers, and contractors. Once construction begins, the project would directly employ up to 700 Idaho workers-and operations would provide up to another 600 direct jobs. When you factor in indirect jobs supported by the project, that adds hundreds more for each phase. Add to all that the hundreds of millions of dollars that this project would pump into our state's economy, and this looks like a pretty good deal for Idaho.

That's basically what the draft environmental impact statement released by your agency found. In Chapter 4, it clearly says the long-term productivity of the Stibnite Gold Project area would be an economic benefit to Idaho. And compared to other options, Alternative 2 would allow Idaho communities to begin feeling these benefits sooner.

That is why I am asking you to please approve Alternative 2 for the Stibnite Gold Project and help create local jobs that will provide some much-needed economic relief for our entire state.