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Comments: I very much appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) dated August 14, 2020. I'm an Idaho native and licensed CPA, as well as a 35-year resident and elected Councilman for the City of Soda Springs. As such, I'm keenly aware of the significant boost our local mining industry provides to the economy of Caribou County as well as the State of Idaho. The three phosphate mines in our area collectively employ well over a thousand Idahoans in their mining and manufacturing operations. These well-paying jobs, combined with the associated taxes and fees paid to local, state, and federal governments have contributed substantial economic value to our region for many decades, and will do so for many more. Additionally, the associated indirect impact creates an economic multiplier effect which increases employment considerably on both a regional and statewide basis. I'm highly confident Valley County, neighboring communities, and the entire western Idaho region would realize similar fiscal benefits during construction, operation, and reclamation of the SGP.

Following my thorough review of the DEIS, I've reached the conclusion Alternative 2 presents the best plan for the SGP. I was particularly impressed with the on-site lime kiln, addition of an extra layer of geosynthetic liner to the tailings storage facility, and allowing seasonal public access through the site during operation. Being an outdoor enthusiast, I was equally impressed with the extensive mitigation measures detailed in Appendix D. These proactive and responsible mining practices will thoroughly minimize risks, mitigate impacts, and alleviate most, if not all, concerns with the SGP.

Based on the preceding, I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to approve the SGP's Alternative 2 as delineated in the DEIS. Doing so will remedy, in a responsible manner, the myriad of legacy environmental problems at the site and provide considerable economic benefit to the great State of Idaho through the addition of numerous good-paying jobs. This is clearly a win/win scenario for all involved.