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Title: District 24, Seat B
Comments: As a member of the Idaho State House of Representatives, I am eager to promote opportunities that will help our communities flourish and grow. I want to thank the U.S. Forest Service for releasing the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project in a timely fashion. I believe that this project has the potentially to significantly boost Idaho's economy while providing critical environmental reclamation. I am writing you today in support of their proposal and plans for Stibnite.

The Stibnite site has been home to a host of mining operations over the last century and unfortunately, past operators were not responsible stewards of the environment leaving the land and surrounding habitat in a disastrous condition. In fact, for the past 80 years, the East Fork and South Fork of the Salmon River has dumped into the abandoned Yellow Pine pit. As a result, anadromous and local fish populations have not been able to migrate upstream from this point since the 1930s.

Midas promises to be different. They submitted a Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) to the U.S. Forest Service, and from the outset have focused their plans on reclaiming and restoring the environment. As a part of the proposal, Midas Gold has guaranteed that they will reconnect the rivers and create a habitat that will allow for healthy salmon to flow through our rivers once again.

Restoration is a costly endeavor, one that cannot be taken on by the taxpayers alone. I am confident after reviewing the draft EIS that Midas Gold will their proposed $1 billion private investment to not only restore our environment but to leave the site in a condition in which it can flourish for future generations

I hope you will consider my comments during the review process and please adopt Alternative 2 laid out by the company and considered in your draft.