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First name: Robert
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project presents Idaho, particularly rural Idaho, with a huge economic and environmental opportunity. I am writing to encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible.

If the Stibnite Gold Project goes into production, Idaho would see a huge economic benefit. Midas Gold plans to invest $1 billion in the state, contribute $86 million in state and local taxes and make improvements to roads and power grid near the site. The company has also made a pledge to hire locally whenever possible and plans to provide around 1,000 jobs for Idahoans throughout the life of the project. Midas Gold salaries will be approximately two times higher than the local salary. It is impossible to ignore the positive trickledown effect an investment of this size would have on our community and economy. Independent estimates suggest indirect employment of approximately 500-800 people during construction and 450-600 people during operations. The project would also help to improve fish habitat in the region. According to 4.12-22 of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternative two would provide an additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids becomes available before mining begins, a net gain of 11.1 km of intrinsic potential habitat for steelhead trout and 12.4 km for bull trout. The DEIS also indicates this alternative could help increase productivity and diversity of these fish by opening up access to historically blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-33). Our economy needs this project but so does our environment.

Midas Gold wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site. We should let them. Please permit the Stibnite Gold Project and continue to move this important project forward.