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Comments: Granite Excavation Inc. is a locally owned and operated, large-scale commercial and residential excavating contractor located in Idaho. We employ more than 100 people across the state, and have been and always will be committed to our customers, employees and importantly, our community.

When we partnered with Midas Gold Idaho on a project, we learned about their plans for the Stibnite mining district and knew this was a historic opportunity to support a project that will have some real significance for central Idaho and the whole state. Therefore, Granite Excavation would like to express our support for the Stibnite Gold Project presented by Midas Gold Idaho and examined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). After reviewing the draft, Alternative 2 is clearly the best path forward to protect the area and mine the area safely. The Stibnite Gold Project embodies our belief that business and the environment can thrive together, as this project will clearly be a tremendous economic 'win' for the regional business community and people of Idaho. In total, the project will amount to a $1 billion investment in Idaho. Over the 20-year duration of the project, it is estimated to generate approximately $150 million in state and local tax revenues. The investment extends to the region's citizens as well, with approximately 500 positions that would employ Idaho residents.

Additionally, what many don't realize is that if the Stibnite Gold Project is allowed to move forward, it will be the only antimony mine in the America. Antimony is a critical mineral that is used as a metal strengthener and fire retardant. It is used in everything from batteries, textiles, cell phones, plastics and cable sheathing. However, right now, we import all of our antimony from countries like Russia and China. In fact, the Department of Defense outlined a plan to strategically stockpile the mineral. Antimony from the Stibnite Gold Project could fulfill nearly a quarter of U.S. demand for the strategically important industrial material. All while bringing jobs and economic investment to rural Idaho. Finally, the project could also be a win for the environment, improving water quality and helping fish. In their plans, it is clear the environment is always the focus. Plans from the company focus on cleaning up elevated metals in surface and ground waters and reversing the degradation of natural water ways hurting fish populations. In appendix A of the draft EIS, you can see Midas Gold is committed to minimizing disturbances to wildlife during the project and improving the region once mining is complete.

According to findings in Chapter 4, section 12 of draft EIS, removing barriers currently blocking fish access will increase productivity and diversity of some populations. This area needs help and Midas Gold Idaho has a plan to do it the right way, all while brining necessary investment and partnership to this region's economy. We need Alternative 2 because it will bring the Stibnite Gold Project and it's benefits to fruition the quickest and ensure the best possible actions are taken. For example, Alternative 4 uses existing roads like Johnson Creek and Stibnite Road for mine traffic to access the project rather than the Burntlog Road option. However, those roads are not the best choice for site access. Alternative 2 places site access away from other drivers and users on main roads like South Fork and Johnson Creek Roads and avoids existing routes that parallel major fish bearing waterways, reducing the risk of potential spills and minimize sediment delivery to waterways, and avoids known winter avalanche sites.

Thank you for your consideration of our comment. Please adopt Alternative 2 and allow the Stibnite Gold Project to move forward.