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First name: Heather
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I would like to express my support for the development and permitting of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho . I'm a local business owner in Yellow Pine, the Corner Restaurant. Midas has been exceptionally benefitial to our business and very easy to deal with. During the first few years of operations their business was critical for our success. During the past few year's we have served many of the contractors that have worked with the Stibnite Project and they have spoken very highly of Midas's project and theirteam.

Midas Gold has been a great partner in the region and has created their plan in full transparency so that that surrounding communities understand exactly what is being proposed for the historical Stibnite mining district. They have given the opportunity to thousands of people to tour the site to see firsthand what this all entails. I have no doubt that Midas Gold's plan is comprehensive and will be extremely beneficial to our community, the state of Idaho, and our country.

First, Midas Gold Idaho wants to take care of the environment through mining. They realize the Stibnite mining district has been damaged after nearly a century of mining and that something must be done if we ever want to reclaim this area. Alternative 2 as outlined by the U.S. Forest Service in the draft environmental impact statement is the best chance to help repair the environment and result in better water quality in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Their plans will result in an additional 26.5 km of habitat for fish and becomes available before mining begins with the construction of the fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit (DEIS 4.12-13). Alternative 2 would also reduce long[shy] term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9). The Federal Gov't has done little of nothing to address these issues. These are benefits that should be fully recognized. With Alternative 4 routing traffic along Johnson Creek and the EFSFSR and through the community of Yellow Pine, the residents are not in favor of Alternative 4.

Aside from the fact that Midas Gold is proposing to clean the historical wreckage left by previous miners at no cost to the taxpayers, the economic boom that will be brought to our region is welcome and needed. The Stibnite Gold Project will benefit not just company employees; annually, the impacts from local job creation are estimated to be $28.8 million in annual local income during construction, $29.3 million per year during operations and $5 million per year during final reclamation . This income - through direct employees and the contracting of Idaho vendors -will help families in the region tremendously.

The Stibnite Gold Project should move forward and I join the thousands of Idahoans in expressing my full support . I urge you to accept Alternative 2 and grant all the permits necessary for this project.