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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing to express my views on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the Stibnite Gold Project is compelling for many reasons and it is a project I am committed to seeing come to fruition.

One of the biggest economic challenges we face in our region is housing and rental units that working people can afford. My argument, at first glance may seem to be a stretch, but is rooted in strong historical economic principles. Stibnite Gold Project will bring 400-500 high paying jobs to our region. If you take the projected $34M in payroll translates into an average salary of $85000/yr. According to economic demographic data from the US Census, in 2019 the mean household income in Valley County was $78,478 per year. Add in another 400-500 $85000 jobs and this mean income is bound to increase significantly. This doesn't include any supporting jobs that come with these. Also, 400-500 higher paying jobs are likely to bring families, too. Our schools will likely see a large enrollment spike which leads to more funding for the schools which leads to more education opportunities and jobs for the schools. I can continue to expand on this economic benefits, but turning back to workforce housing. When there are large increases to a regions economic base, this will encourage more personal investments by individuals and also attract more development that both should create more housing. With a larger population of year round workers, the benefits to individual investors or developers to create housing for long-term rental increases and likely will lead to more long-term rentals on the market versus short-term rentals. This should have a dual impact of making housing more affordable for every working class person and more profitable for these investors. This benefits everyone in the community. People who are opposed to the Stibnite Gold Project often overlook these proven economic drivers to our economy. More high paying jobs in the economy creates greater opportunity for everyone in the community.

My support for this project is not only economic driven. I have been out to Stibnite area a few times. Our Church Boy Scout Troop did a fundraiser by planting trees for Midas Gold in the proposed mining area. We planted approximately 2500 trees and Midas paid us $2 each (if my memory serves me right). I believe they have supported other local groups in a similar way. Ask yourself this, if Midas was going to continue the historical trend of former bad mining actors that have left the area a dump, if before Midas even has got a final agreement to mine the area were already actively bettering the environment there. Also, I have read several articles and references in the application and most objections make the assumption that Midas will leave or go out of business if gold prices plunge and leave the area a mess like all other actors have done. However, I think it is foolish to believe this because of a few factors. First, this assumes that Midas is the same as every previous entity wit h strictly greed as a motivator. Anyone who wants to see the salmon return to that area is actually fighting against themselves by assuming that all actors are the same. Right now, the salmon are not returning. What do these naysayers have to lose? Right now, there are no salmon and the environment is a mess. Forest Service doesn't have the funds to be able to fix the environment and bring the salmon back. There is literally no one willing to take on this important task. Midas is the only one willing to take on the task and commit significant guarantees to returning the environment to better than before. Naysayers are not actually arguing for the environment, they are only arguing to have it stay the same. If Midas gets turned down, no other entity will ever make the investment

and attempt to go against the naysayer machine in the future. The perceived barriers of entry to fix that environment and bring back the salmon are too high. Naysayers are only arguing to keep it the same as it currently is. Why can't they see this is the best option they have to actually get what they want?

This project is ultimately a win win for our community. We get incredible massive economic growth that can be controlled and we get an interested party willing to commit incredible resources to fixing the environmental

disaster left by the past.

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge you to now move forward and permit the mine using alternative 2 so Midas Gold can put Americans back to work.

Please keep my comments in mind,