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Comments: Letter attached

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project as outlined in the agency's recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). As a business that works with mining companies across the world, we would like to express our support for the Stibnite Gold Project and urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 and allow this project to proceed with construction and operations.

Complete Geological Supply (CGS) is a worldwide supplier of geological and mining equipment with over 45 years of service supplying to the mining industry. We have also been working with Midas Gold Idaho over the past decade as the company came to Idaho and began studying the site and planning the Stibnite Gold Project. Alternative 2 clearly lays out the company's well designed plan to repair the environmental damage previously done while simultaneously employing hundreds of Idahoans to extract the minerals essential to our everyday lives and should be commended.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest more than a $1 billion in Idaho. Not only will the project generate significant tax revenues for the state, estimated to be more than $86 million in state taxes, but it will also provide much needed job opportunities to Idahoans in a good industry with a large supply chain. By approving this project, businesses like ours will be able to reap benefits that will grow our footprint and help our own Idaho employees.

Additionally, since mining projects and new industrial activity could have a direct impact on the residents of the surrounding area, it is vital for the local community to have a say in consequential decisions regarding operations. Fortunately, Midas Gold Idaho is committed to working with our local community and has already set up a system that will allow for local, public input in their planning process. In fact, as a company they continually take steps to help mitigate public concerns about traffic, noise, safety, and the environment. That is why they established the community agreement process and Stibnite Advisory Council, to give the people of Idaho a voice in the project. We believe Midas Gold not only has an investment in mining but in the communities that will be impacted by their project.

Midas Gold Idaho's commitment to environmental concerns is also commendable, especially ensuring the reclamation of the site to conditions preceding operations by prior mine operators. After looking over the DEIS, it's clear Midas Gold identified the best possible plan to restore the site under Alternative 2. The company is limiting its footprint to existing disturbance as much as possible to minimize new disturbance, natural fish spawning routes will be restored after being blocked for decades and the company has plans to make improvements that will keep thousands of pounds of sediment out of the river each year. According to Chapter 4, section 4.12-22, Alternative 2 would provide an additional 26.5 km of habitat for native salmon 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 document also indicates this alternative could help to increase productivity and diversity of these fish by opening up access to historically blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-39). Unfortunately, if Midas Gold Idaho is not allowed to move forward with its plan, it is highly unlikely that these critical improvements will ever happen.

As a company that has worked on many different mines, it is encouraging to see a company prioritize not just their operations, but also factor in the long term health of the brownfield site. We think that Midas Gold Idaho has thoroughly planned and designed the Stibnite Gold Project to effectively address environmental concerns, and shown their commitment to improving the region and promoting Idaho businesses.

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve Alternative 2 and move this project forward as quickly as possible.