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Comments: As part of the U.S. Forest Service's public comment period for Midas Gold Idaho's proposed Stibnite Gold Project, I would like to voice my support for this important project. Midas Gold's plan will bring 21st century mining of critical minerals to the U.S., necessary fixes to the environment from past operations, and a significant economic boon to Valley County and all of Idaho.

During its prefeasibility study, Midas Gold indicated that the Stibnite site would yield at least 4 million ounces of gold and 100 million pounds of antimony. Both gold and antimony are critical minerals used in a variety of industries, however, antimony is specifically vital in defense applications. The Department of Defense ranked antimony numbertwo in the list of strategic and non-fuel defense material shortfalls and predicted a shortfall of 20,500 tons in a four-year period. The Department of Defense recommended strategic stockpiling approximately 11,000 tons of antimony to address this shortfall, which has not occurred. Currently, the U.S. imports 100% of the mineral, primarily from China, but the Stibnite Project will allow the U.S. to balance its reliance on foreign sources.

The Stibnite Project will also bring much needed restoration to the environmental damages that previous mining operations have caused to the area. Midas Gold Idaho has specifically designed their project plan reviewed by the U.S. Forest Service to reconnect fish to their native spawning grounds, fix the largest source of sediment in the watershed and remove tailings and waste that degrade water quality. Midas Gold has committed to accomplishing all of this at no cost to the taxpayer, making it a win-win for Idahoans.

Lastly, the Stibnite Project is poised to bring over 500 well-payingjobs to the region during construction and operations of the mine. Midas Gold is dedicated to emp laying Idahoans first and sourcing from local vendors before going outside the region. This brings with it an annual payroll ranging from $48 to $51 million, hundreds of millions of dollars in state and local tax revenue, and tens of millions of dollars in direct, indirect, and induced impacts from the local job creation.

For these reasons and many more, I strongly support Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project and ask that you accept Alternative 2 of their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations.