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First name: Charles

Last name: Vermeersch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing today to voice my support for Midas Gold's Alternative 2 for the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP). Please consider this letter to be an official comment on the project, submitted within the window of the legally required comment period.

I have reviewed key portions of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement as well as project descriptions provided by mining company Midas Gold. Thank you for making these materials available on the U.S. Forest Service website. I believe 60 days is plenty of time to review all of these materials.

Based on my understanding of the project and its impacts as described in the DEIS, I encourage the USFS to approve Alternative 2. This selection is in the best interests of the region, Idaho, and our environment. The bottom line is that mitigation and restoration plans of Midas Gold will improve regional water quality and support populations of Chinook salmon, bull trout, and steel head.

Alternative 5- leaving the Stibnite Mining District in its current state- will perpetuate the problems left by historic mining. The draft EIS even says so. Valley County has endured compromised water quality because of hazardous metals left by past mining operations, which leach into the water.

Several parts of Alternative 2 will help address the water quality issue. A new tailings and waste facility will limit the amount of arsenic and antimony that enters ground and surface water. In addition, repair of Blowout Creek will reduce harmful sediment levels.

The impact of past Stibnite mining operations has been especially harmful to fish populations. Concentrations of metals and sediment in rivers place stress on fish and inhibit their feeding. In addition, legacy mining has blocked the ability of fish to access upper stretches of the Salmon River. Alternative 2 "will repair the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, enabling fish to reach higher waters and historic spawning grounds. The overall impact will be increased fish populations and greater biodiversity.

I will not offer more specific comments about the economic impact other than to say that the region and Idaho will clearly benefit from new jobs and economic activity. On this count, I want to underscore that further delay will only hold the area back economically.

Please proceed with your review and approval without an additional extension of the comment period. Thank you very much for your consideration.