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Comments: I have had a chance to review Midas Gold's Draft Environmental Impact Statement and other supporting materials, and as a life-long Valley County resident, I am satisfied with the results. Midas Gold has conducted extensive outreach with our citizens and followed the science every step of the way, and I believe they are the solution to the environmental problems we have had at Stibnite. I believe the Alternative 2 proposal should be approved and begun ASAP.

Midas originally released their Plan of Restoration and Operations in 2016, and since then they have sought the input of local residents as well as local and state authorities and federal regulators. They have collected data and analyzed the facts, and Alternative 2 is an improved version that reflects all of those facts. The company updated its plans as necessary, including improvements for the development of rock storage facilities to protect salmon and other safety upgrades. This is a thorough, thoughtful plan that is long overdue for this area.

Alternative 3 and 4 are unacceptable in my view. Alternative 3 would establish the Tailings Storage Facility too close to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, while Alternative 4 uses existing roads-Johnson Creek and Stibnite Road-for mine traffic to access the project. I believe these would undermine safety and possibly cause delays. With Alternative 2, fewer truck trips would take place each year, and up to two years would be saved on the timeframe.

The DEIS proves Alternative 2 will be the best approach. As described in Ch 4.12 Fish Resources-4.12-33, it would provide "Long-term access to historically blocked critical habitat would result in increased productivity." Ch. 4 Section 4.9 finds that "Removing legacy and managing water provides long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water." And 4.3.2.1.2.3 reports "Analysis shows that the maximum modeled contribution to ozone levels are a small fraction of the existing baseline conditions. "The fish habitat will be improved, the water will be improved, and the air quality will not be compromised by the Stibnite Gold Project. What else could we ask for?

Well, it will also boost our local economy, which has been hit hard recently. The mine would directly employ hundreds of people with annual payroll ranging from $42 million to $49 million, with an average salary of about$80,000 a year. Furthermore, it will drive economic growth with approximately $150 million in sales transactions in the region's economy throughout the life of the project.

This is a great deal for our community. We finally have a partner to help us clean up the mess left behind for more than a hundred years in some cases. We can restore our fish populations, clean up our water and keep our air clean. And we can grow our local economy. If Alternative 2 is not approved, I cannot imagine a better plan coming along, and we will be left with the same environmental problems we have had for generations. This is a no-brainer; please help get this done.