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Comments: My thanks to you and your organization for your effort in developing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project. It is easy to access and review the extensive documentation online.

There is no dispute that the historic Stibnite Mining District is rife with environmental challenges. Legacy mining in the region may have been instrumental to the prosecution of World War II and subsequent economic growth, but today we are left with broken rivers and streams, barren land, and compromised water quality.

Midas Gold Idaho's proposed Stibnite Gold Project, specifically Alternative 2 outlined in the DEIS, represents our generation 's best chance to repair the damage. This timely, comprehensive, environmentally responsible plan will tackle the most pressing problems left by legacy mining. Over the course of the proposed project, Midas Gold will reconnect rivers; reduce riparian sediment; restore habitat; and improve water quality.

Several components stand out in the plan, such as the reparation of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. I would like to call special attention to Alternative 2's plan to address tailings and waste rock. An estimated 10 million -plus tons of this material are one particularly onerous remnant of legacy mining. This material has likely been leaching metals into surface water and groundwater. Midas Gold has identified high levels of arsenic and antimony-an issue that must be addressed if safe mining is to resume in the area.

Fortunately, Alternative 2 envisions the reprocessing and storage of tailings in a new facility that will be carefully engineered and lined to prevent continued leaching of metals into water and soil. Waste rock will also be stored so that it will not enter waterways.

The EIS rightly concludes that the plan to cleanup and store tailings and waste rock will help improve water quality in the region. Specifically, levels of arsenic and antimony will decline (see DEIS 4.9-70).

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve Alternative 2 without delay. The region has waited long enough to see renewed mining activity and environmental remediation.