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Comments: I have had a chance to review the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) assessing the various options for redeveloping the Stibnite Mining District and would like to offer the following comment for your consideration.

I have been watching Midas Gold Idaho for years now and have been quite impressed with their commitment to working with local communities in order to ensure their proposed Stibnite Gold Project reflects the concerns of local residents and businesses. What has also impressed me is their robust plans for environmental restoration of this area, which-if Alternative 2 is approved-would take place concurrently with their proposed redevelopment and excavation of currently abandoned mining areas.

Along with many other issues, the ecosystem around Stibnite district has been seriously impacted by years of mostly unregulated mining activity. As a result of some of this previous activity, part of the Salmon River now runs right over a large abandoned pit-the Yellow Pine Pit-cutting off local salmon and other migratory fish from their historical spawning habitat for generations now. In addition, due to a dam failure more than 50 years ago, large amounts of sedimentation is being dumped into the downstream water supply every year. Meanwhile, the surrounding wetlands and streams have been drying out, reducing habitat for local fish and aquatic wildlife even further.

In Alternative 2 of their proposal, Midas Gold has outlined how it intends to address this issue, first fixing the drainage problem at the site of the old dam and then working to rebuild stream channels and raise the water level to restore wetlands to their previous state. Based on the findings of the draft EIS, these mitigation and restoration plans will increase the amount of wetlands by 40 percent and increase functional streams by 23 percent.

I truly believe that Alternative 2 offers the best possible approach to not only fix the environmental problems that have gone on at Stibnite for decades now, but also ensure these problems do not return in the future. It is the only solution that will enable restoration and mitigation work to begin immediately; Alternatives 3 and 4 would incur a lengthy, two-year delay while Alternative 5 would mean doing nothing at all, which is not an acceptable option in my opinion.

Please approve Alternative 2 as proposed by Midas Gold and help breathe new life into this long-neglected area.