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Comments: I am writing you today in regards to the Stibnite Gold Project. It is my opinion that the permitting of this project should be granted. The Stibnite mining district has been in a state of disrepair for years and it's time decisive action is taken to rectify the environmental damage the area has suffered while at the same time putting it to beneficial use that will help the local communities in rural Idaho. Midas Gold Idaho has designed just such a plan: repair the damage, return the site to a better condition than it currently stands once mining is completed, and create jobs for the community.

Given the natural beauty of our state, the environment is important to all Idahoans. As such, it has been disheartening to watch the Stibnite mining district fall into such poor condition over the years as a result of past lax federal and state regulatory oversight. Without any intervention, the area will only continue to deteriorate. Luckily, Midas Gold came into the picture with a plan that puts equal emphasis on responsible mining and environmental restoration.

The Stibnite mining district faces a multitude of environmental challenges from contaminated surface water to widespread erosion to a disrupted ecosystem for salmon. Midas Gold has already begun tackling these challenges, reclaiming 33 acres and spending \$350,000 to reduce sediment and improve road conditions. Their work doesn't stop there, however; they've pledged to leave the Stibnite mining district in a better condition and have worked with restoration experts to develop a plan to submit to regulators.

Along with environmental opportunity, this project will bring economic opportunity to the region and Idaho through jobs and revenue. Midas Gold is projecting 500 direct jobs will be created with an average salary of \$80,000. Not to mention critical state and local tax revenues that go directly back into local communities.

Not allowing this project to proceed would deal a double blow to the community, depriving local residents of tremendous economic benefits and the opportunity for private investment to come in and restore the damaged Stibnite mining district.

I would strongly encourage you to adopt Alternative 2 laid out by Midas Gold in their proposal submitted to the U.S. Forest Service.