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Comments: I am writing to support Midas Gold and the Stibnite Gold Project.

As former intelligence analyst and author on national security issues, I believe that it is important for the United States to reduce its reliance on foreign sources for critical raw materials. In addition to the economic benefits of in-sourcing production of these elements, projects such as Midas Gold's proposal will reduce the leverage that foreign governments have over United States policy and actions.

While it is neither feasible nor desirable to try to produce every raw material ourselves, a situation where a foreign power controls 75% of the production of a critical element such as antimony is inherently unstable. By reducing our reliance to a more reasonable level, we can also reduce the potential for future conflict over resources. It's worth remembering that access to resources was a major cause of WW II, for example.

While I am not a citizen of Idaho nor a frequent visitor there, the arguments Midas Gold has made to enhance employment and wages while preserving quality of life are impressive. Without such investment, it is hard to see how the effects of past damage can be mitigated and the environment preserved into the future.

Assuming that the USFS will hold Midas to these pledges, I recommend proceeding with their current proposal.

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