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Comments: I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. As a resident of Yellow Pine, I strongly believe that Midas Gold can play an important part in addressing the degradation of this region's environment,and I hope that my letter helps to advance the approval process.

Before learning about the Stibnite Gold project, I never would have thought that a mining company could have a positive environmental influence. I have seen firsthand just how badly past companies have treated Stibnite. It is inexcusable that decades afterthe last mining companies left Stibnite, waste from abandoned mine pits continues to pollute our water and our wildlife.

I was pleased to learn that unlike other companies, Midas Gold designs their projects to minimize environmental harm. Beyond that, Midas Gold has promised to go out of their way to undo past harm. If the Stibnite Gold project is approved, most of their work would be done on land that is already disturbed, which would be restored upon completion. They would also restore salmon migration routes and prevent furtherpollu tion of waterways by cleaning up tailings from older operations. In fact,Appendix D of the DEIS shows that removing historical barriers to fish migration will help to restore populations and genetics strain especially for the fish that have been in the headwaters of that watershed.

After reviewing the draft EnvironmentallmpactStatement (EIS) and the five Alternatives examined, I believe Alternative 2 represents the best path forward for the Stibnite Gold Project and the opportunity to rewrite this region's legacy. That is because this Alternative actively seeks to reduce the company's footprint and safeguard the environment. For example, the tailings storage facility location proposed in Alternative 3 is in an unspoiled portion of the East Fork South Fork Sahnon River. While Alternative 2 places the proposed facility in an area already heavily impacted by mining activity.

If mining can return to Stibnite in a responsible and sustainable way, then I believe that it would be foolish to him down an opportunity to create jobs and strengthen our economy. For these reasons, I encourage you to approve alternative two outlined in the Draft Environmental lmpact Statement.