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Comments: I write to you in support of Midas Gold ldaho'sStibnite Gold Project. Beside the positive environmental and economic effects the project will have, it will also allow for mining of critical minerals that are vital to our country.

The Stibnite Mining District is home to the largest known antimony deposit in the United States. In its 2014 Prefeasibility Study, Midas Gold indicated 180 million pounds of antimony can be found at its site of which 137 million pounds were contained in reserves. Stibnite provided approximately90% of the U.S. antimony supplies during WWII and the Korean War and, when Japan's invasion of China cut off supplies to the U.S., production at the site was deemed critical to the war effort. Antimony has numerous industrial uses from the petroleum refining and chemical industry, high tech electronics, green energy production, fire retardant formulations used in nearly all consumer and industrial plastics, and in a wide variety of military applications. Antimony is also considered a critical mineral for its use in national defense, aerospace and energy industries. Supply is limited and at-risk due to no current domestic production and no strategic stockpile. Today, China is the leading source of antimony for the United States and the world. Antimony from the Stibnite Gold Project can provide the strategically important industrial material to the United States and bala nee reliance on foreign sources, especially as our supply chain continues to be in flux due to the ever-changing political climate.

The Department of Defense noted the importance of antimony for defense applications in 2013, when it ranked antimony numbertwo in the list of strategic and non-fuel defense material shortfalls and predicted a shortfall of 20,500 tons in a four-year period. The Department of Defense recommended strategic stockpiling approximately 11,000 tons ofantimonyto address this shortfall, which has not occurred. We now have the ability to mine antimony and ensure the U.S. has the quantities necessary without relying on foreign suppliers.

The Stibnite Gold Project will definitely bring needed economic benefits but the positive impact it will have on our country's national defense through the production of antimony is a critical benefit that cannot be overlooked. I ask that the U.S. Forest Service adopt Alternative 2 presented by Midas Gold Idaho in their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations without delay.