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Comments: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my support for the permitting of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. My top concern when I first became aware of their mining proposal for the Stibnite district was summed up in one word: safety. But thanks in large part to Midas Gold's commitment to transparency and working relationship with the Valley County community, that concern has been addressed.

Transparency has been a driving factor throughout this process as Midas Gold has done their utmost to inform and engage the community about their plans for the Stibnite mining district. They are well aware that in order to earn residents' trust, they must be open about their plans, goals and daily operations. And indeed they have, proving that their promise to be transparent wasn't an empty one.

For me, in particular, their openness has eased my concern over one safety aspect of the Stibnite Gold Project and that is the transport and use of cyanide. You may be aware---Or perhaps not---that for over a 100 years, cyanide has been used by miners to extract gold and silver from ore as it has a natural tendency to bond with those metals. It can, of course, be toxic in high concentrations.

Thankfully, Midas Gold has a plan in place to use it safely and without harming the environment or their employees just like other mines operating across the country. In order to extract gold from the ore they mine at the Stibnite district, they will use a weak sodium cyanide solution, a popular method of recovery. Technological advances permit mining companies such as Midas Gold to use less and less cyanide in their projects yet be able to achieve a similar result.

Further adding a layer of safety and to protect the environment, they will process all the gold ore inside a state-of-the-art, enclosed facility. Midas Gold also has made safety a top priority in transporting the cyanide to the site.

While I initially had concerns about the use of cyanide in this project, Midas Gold's plans assure me those concerns are unfounded. I would therefore encourage the U.S. Forest Service to adopt alternative 2 laid out in their proposal.