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First name: Terry
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: My wife and I would like to submit this letter in support of the Stibnite Midas Gold Project.

One of the reasons that I am writing this letter is because I am probably one of a handful of people left that actually lived in Stibnite at the time the mill was operating in the early 1950's. My family moved to Stibnite in the late 1940's. My folks ran the Rec Hall which included a bar and restaurant, a bowling alley, a movie theatre and a full basketball court. When the mill started shutting down, my folks bought the grocery store. My younger brother was the last baby to be born in the Stibnite Hospital in 1954. I went to grade school there until I was in the 5th grade. We moved out of Stibnite in about 1956.

As a kid, I loved to fish and I especially loved to fish in the creeks and reservoir above Stibnite. I believe that reason the salmon didn't come to the Glory Hole is because the tailings water running out of Cinnabar was a very reddishorange color. For people that don't understand what cinnabar is, it is mercury and tailings were visible in Sugar Creek which I believe ran out of Cinnabar and into Meadow Creek. Everything turned red in the creeks and nothing could survive, trees and shrubs along the sides were dead. At the time there was very little water at the bottom of the Glory Hole. The Glory Hole filled up when the reservoir above Stibnite, that was used to supply water to the town and the mill, was left unattended after the mill closed. It was breached by non-maintenance. At the time, it flooded the tailings above the mill at Stibnite and washed everything in its path to the Glory Hole which then filled up and it is still that way today.

One other note for historical record, the reason Cinnabar was able to extract precious metals and release tailings into the river was because the military needed the Cinnabar (mercury) during WWII. It was needed for the thermometers and gauges in the war ships and airplanes. The Stibnite area provided tungsten which was used for hardening the steel for tanks and ships. Antimony was used for a fire suppressor in paint that they needed for the decks of aircraft carriers because they were made of wood. At that time, the mining company wasn't allowed to mine gold. It was always rumored that the airport was full of gold tailings.

My point is that from what I've seen of the Midas Gold Reclamation process, they will go in and leave the whole area including the creeks and rivers in far better condition than they have been in the past. The mining company in the 40's and 50's did what they needed to do for the war effort but Midas will do a much better job going forward

We have owned property in the Yellow Pine area for over 60 years on the East of the South Fork of the Salmon River. We sincerely feel that the Midas Gold project would be fantastic for Valley County, the State of Idaho and particularly the Cascade/Yellow Pine area. We feel it will be a great economic benefit to Valley County, bringing much needed jobs and tax dollars. Hopefully, with the additional tax dollars, Valley County will be able to greatly improve the condition of our roads.

Midas Gold will be a great partner to help to improve our way of life.

Thank you for your time!