Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/8/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Debbie
Last name: Shaw
Organization:
Title:
Comments: The Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho will help give communities across Valley County and throughout Central Idaho a much-needed economic boost while fixing some of the longstanding environmental issues that have been caused by past mining projects that did not follow the same level of regulations and standards that are in place today. That is why I am urging the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with Alternative 2 as preferred by Midas and assessed in the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS).

Especially with today's economic climate, more jobs are always welcome, and the Stibnite Gold Project will provide them aplenty. During the construction phase, the project will employ 600-700 jobs directly and another 500-800 jobs indirectly, paying out tens of millions of dollars in annual payroll. Once complete, ongoing operations of the mine will support another 500-600 direct jobs and 450-600 indirectly, including workers in the local supply chain, transportation, and hospitality, etc.

According to the DEIS, this project is good for Central Idaho's workforce and the long-term economic prospects across the state. As concluded in Chapter 4, section 4, the long-term productivity of the Stibnite Gold Project area would be an economic benefit to Idaho. As if all of that wasn't enough, the project will also address some of the worst ecological issues in the Stibnite area, including cleaning up old mining materials and waste rock, restoring the wetlands, and helping to connect local fish to miles of new feeding habitat and spawning grounds.

There is no good reason to delay this project any longer given all the benefits it will provide for Idaho's economy and the region's environment. Please approve Alternative 2 in the DEIS.