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Comments: USFS,

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity not only for Idaho but for the United States.

The Stibnite Gold Project represents a significant source of jobs and income for the state of Idaho and its people. Bringing approximately 500 jobs to the economically-depressed Valley County and investing \$1 billion dollars is a significant contribution to Idaho's economy. Additionally, the project will create the much-needed capital to actually clean up and reclaim historical mining activity in the area.

For the United States, antimony is on the list of critical minerals according to 83 FR 23295 and Midas Gold has the opportunity to create a new domestic supply in keeping with the requests issued in Executive Order 13817. Currently, the United States relies heavily on foreign sources of antimony which creates a strategic vulnerability for both its economy and military to adverse foreign government action, natural disaster, and other events that could disrupt the supply of this metal. When put into production, the Stibnite Gold Project will address the needs of our nation by reducing dependency of the United States on foreign sources.

Alternative 2 is clearly the best option. This alternative creates a smaller project footprint, reconnects salmon to their native spawning grounds before mining ever begins and improves water quality. Two of the alternatives, 3 and 4, would delay the project by several years which could not only reduce the benefits to Idaho and the United States, but is not in keeping with the expedited need of critical minerals outlined in Executive Order 13817, Executive Order 13807 (environmental review should have taken less than 2 years), and 83 FR 23295. Those same alternatives could also become so expensive it could make the project cost prohibitive. With everything happening in the world, I feel strongly that we need to Stibnite Gold Project to move forward now.

This Stibnite Gold Project is a huge opportunity for Idaho and the USA. I am grateful for the tools the Forest Service has provided to review the DEIS and learn more about the project. These tools have given Idahoans sufficient time to comment. Please permit alternative 2 and continue moving the project forward in a timely manner so our citizens can reap the positive impacts.

Best Regards,

Sam