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Comments: Reflecting on the Forest Service recent comment period

It always baffles me how the government can put out a document of this magnitude and importance, yet give such a short time to comment on it. The one overwhelming issue is that we have never really gotten a firm direction and dollar amount of Midas Gold on bonding of the entire project. I have heard many numbers floating around but never an exact amount that Midas is willing to commit to.

With this information not being spelled out I do not know how any government organization (given the past problems in the mining industry) would approve the Stibnite Mine to continue. The bonding of the mine now and at the end of the cycle (12 to 15) years is paramount and should be given a much weight as anything else in the entire project. No wonder Midas wanted their employees to help draft the Environmental Impact study stating we would be a tremendous help, because of our knowledge of the industry. The United States Forest Service has been around for a very long-time handling issues large and small in the mining industry, I believe they and their knowledge of mining can handle it. It is not just the details of running the mine specific, but all the contingences related to this process such as what the roads will look like after 50 to 60 new vehicles per day and new traffic problems will surface.

Infrastructure has a way of creeping up on any community that is going to see such a dramatic change. I do not think that they have required enough information from Midas to make these decisions in the time allotted. Unless we are given more time (as far as a comment period extension) to evaluate the project as it stands, we will be making a mistake that will have major ramifications to future generations. I have only laid out a few issues, but as this develops out, we need to know the (dollar amount) clearly that Midas Gold will put up for this and all related continuances. This should be etched in stone before the project is ever started. Midas Gold will be a tremendous part of the Valley County's economy let us make sure it is done right.