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First name: Jason

Last name: Hudson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ms. Linda Jackson,

I respectfully submit the following comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Stibnite Mine.

My name is Jason Hudson, I live in Boise, Idaho, and I am commenting in support of Alternative 2 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I have studied the DEIS, have visited the mine site in person, and have educated myself on the proposed project. I originally approached this proposed project with a healthy degree of skepticism, but have come to view the proposed Stibnite Mine as a model for how a mining project should be designed - taking community impacts, economic impacts, and environmental impacts seriously from the outset and working to maximize protections and minimize impacts while remaining economically feasible.

My wife and I were married in Roseberry and we cherish Valley County and want to see it thrive. She grew up spending her summers in Stolle Meadows, just south of the Warm Lake road, and we float the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon every summer we can. We care deeply about Idaho's wild areas, its fish and game, and its pristine watersheds. Protecting these areas matters to us. But we also know that Idaho's economy, and the Nation's economy, need mineral resources. Mining is a necessary part of our way of life. Since mining and mineral extraction are going to occur, they should occur where we can make sure they are held to the highest standards. I believe this project is designed to that high standard, should be approved, and should set the bar that other projects are expected to meet in the future.

The Stibnite Mine will contribute to the Idaho economy, and the National economy, in important ways. The project will provide well compensated jobs for an estimated 700-800 workers, reliable, year-round jobs in an area that sees strong seasonal fluctuations in the labor market. Mining jobs are important to Idaho's economic stability.

Midas Gold has committed to:

- implement hiring practices that encourage the use of local contractors and local workers, and will go outside the region to hire only to the extent that qualified contractors and an adequate pool of candidates cannot be reasonably found locally and hired consistent with applicable legal requirements
- maintain a comprehensive program of health and safety training for employees, including environmental considerations
- conduct an operating permit compliance training class for site management and supervisors to specifically cover operating permit constraints and limits to promote accountability with various levels of Project management

In addition to the labor market impacts, the Stibnite Gold project will generate significant tax revenue. Total direct, indirect and induced taxes are estimated at \$506 million in federal taxes and \$218 million in state and local taxes, representing a significant contribution to the economy during the 15 year construction and operating life of the Project. Payroll and other taxes would continue to be paid during the closure and reclamation period, adding to the totals paid throughout the initial and intermediate stages of the Project.

There are systems of accountability in place to ensure Midas Gold follows through on its promises to restore the site. It is important to me that the company is required to set aside all of the money it needs for restoration before mining can begin. My site visit made it clear Midas Gold prioritized restoration work so many of the efforts occur early in the project. Reclamation efforts have already started at the site.

Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the

Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, negatively impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. Midas Gold has a plan to fix these problems during construction. Additionally, fish haven't been able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds for 80 years. Midas Gold will reconnect fish during construction by building a special passage and by the time the project is done they will restore the natural flow of the river so fish are permanently reconnected. If Midas Gold isn't allowed to move forward with its plan, these critical improvements may never happen.

Midas Gold appears to have worked hard to integrate itself into the fabric of the community. The company gives its time, talent and resources to support local charities and environmental causes and has proven they will be a good partner moving forward. Midas Gold has consistently promoted collaboration and transparency. The company has brought more than 700 people up to the site so they can see it for themselves and learn about the project. I was one of those people, and I walked away impressed by their forethought and commitment to doing this the right way.

I respectfully requests that your agency accept Alternative 2 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and its appropriate mitigation measures for the Stibnite Mine and promptly issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

Jason L. Hudson