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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Re: Stibnite Project in Idaho

Dear Ms. Jackson, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite project.

I am a lawyer who has worked in the mining industry for several decades, including as an in-house lawyer, and have been involved in the community, environment, bonding, and other issues associated with permitting a mining project. I also have worked with personnel of Midas Gold over the years on various mining industry issues, and have found them to be smart, thoughtful and caring people.

Congratulations are in order for the efforts of Midas Gold, the participating government agencies, the local communities and other stakeholders in putting forth a project that is good for the United States, good for Idaho and good for the local communities. The United States needs a secure source of supply of antimony and other critical minerals, and it will be important to our national security to continue to support development of these minerals, whether on federal, state or private lands. Idaho and local communities will benefit from the project's tax revenues, expected to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Idahoans will benefit from good paying jobs, and Midas Gold will continue to prioritize hiring locally. The average annual salary of a mining industry employee is higher than the salary of employees in many other industries, contributing to the economic well-being of the local communities.

The restoration that will be completed with the project will help ensure continued enjoyment of this beautiful area - a place where I have recreated for over almost 40 years. The legacy issues with historic mining in the region were not caused by Midas Gold. However, without this project, the issues may not otherwise receive the attention needed. We need to encourage more projects like this that will complete needed restoration without taxpayer dollars.

I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project as expeditiously as possible.