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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to support the positive outcomes proposed by Midas Gold Idaho for the Stibnite Gold project:

- 1) A river and creeks restored for the future
- 2) 500 to 1,000 new jobs in Idaho
- 3) A critical mineral not currently mined in the United States

In my 30 years experience in federal land mineral extraction project review, implementation, oversight, and reclamation, I saw the great transition of the late 1980s from fledgling mine reclamation and bonding to the 21st century mining industry that embodies the willingness and expertise to adopt and implement sustainable strategies and standards for mining operations, reclamation, and operations closure.

The new mining at Stibnite allows for cleanup of legacy land damage caused by mining more than 100 years ago (since before 1906!).

[bull] EFSFSR (East Fork South Fork Salmon River) channel reestablished in a surface channel routed across the reclaimed Yellow Pine pit backfill.

[bull] Hennessy Creek reestablished in a surface channel with 275 foot waterfall over Yellow Pine pit highwall to EFSFSR

[bull] Fiddle Creek reestablished in a surface channel routed over the reclaimed Fiddle DRSF

[bull] West End Creek reestablished in a surface channel routed over the reclaimed West End DRSF

[bull] Meadow Creek reestablished in a surface channel routed over the reclaimed TSF and Hangar Flats DRSF

[bull] Meadow Creek flows routed into the Hangar Flats pit lake, pit lake discharges into lower Meadow Creek

I also support local development of minerals that are a key part of our everyday lives; for electronics, powerlines, homes, transportation, roadway signs and signals, and for military equipment.

If we default all U.S. mineral extraction to foreign countries, we not only put the burden of extraction and environmental safeguards (or lack thereof) on other countries and other workers, which seems like a form of enslavement of foreign workers, to support an American lifestyle. Workers in other countries may not enjoy the same safety protocols in place in the U.S., and may not enjoy the same level of compensation for work, or even the choice to work in a mineral extraction industry.

Furthermore, here is a plan that will work to restore an ecosystem in need of healing at the Stibnite, Idaho area. The Stibnite Gold Project plan is as much about restoring the site as it is about mining it. Redevelopment will allow a business entity, NOT the American taxpayer, to raise enough capital and a solid and bonded plan of restoration and operations that will properly take care of the environment during and at close of operations.

Since 1938, fish have not been able to swim past the historic Yellow Pine pit. Almost no top soil can be found in

the area today due to extensive erosion and high amounts of sediment are running into the waterways, degrading water quality and fish habitat. The Stibnite Gold Project plan addresses these impacts. The project is designed so a lot of the restoration work will occur early on [<https://www.midasgoldcorp.com/project/plan-of-restoration-and-operations/>]

Also, currently, there is no antimony being mined in the United States. The Stibnite Gold Project site is currently the U.S.'s largest known available source of antimony. Antimony is an important strategic mineral for the United States defense, aerospace and energy industries. The United States is currently dependent on countries like China, Bolivia, Russia, and Mexico for our supplies. [<https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1184/>] [OFR_2013_1184_Workbook; pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1184/exceljofr2013-1184_table.xlsx]

The Stibnite Gold Project is projected to create more than 1,000 well-paying jobs for Idahoans and add considerably to the regional, state and national economies. Direct, indirect and induced federal taxes are estimated at more than \$500 million and state and local taxes are estimated at more than \$200 million over the construction and operating life of the mine. During that same period of time, wages at the site are predicted to be two times the local and state average. Employment opportunities will continue during restoration and ongoing monitoring of conditions at the site once it closes. [<https://www.midasgoldcorp.com/project/>]

Idaho and Valley County have the opportunity to implement a project designed to take care of the environment, is safe for employees and the community, and that will have a positive longterm impact for river/creek restoration and ecology for Valley County and Idaho. And finally, I support the environmental monitoring phase that would continue for as long as needed to demonstrate that the site has been fully reclaimed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and express support for the Stibnite Gold project for Valley County, Idaho.