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Comments: I am pleased to provide comment on the proposed plan of operations for Liberty Gold's Black Pine Project. I was born and raised on a small ranch in southern Cassia County and lived in the area while Pegasus Gold was mining this site in the early 1990's. I have worked as a hydrogeologist, exploration geologist, water well contractor, and high school welding instructor.

I fully support this project but have some specific preferences to share in my comments.

1) I believe the Black Pine Mine will have a significant positive economic impact on the local communities, families, and economy in general. From construction and building of infrastructure, through the estimated 20-year mine life, and work related to decommissioning and reclamation, over 300 full-time jobs are likely to be created and sustained for at least 25 years. This is a growth opportunity for local businesses, the local tax base, and provides high-paying career positions for skilled trades, and professional positions alike. The majority of these jobs will be available to local residents allowing for young adults to find meaningful living-wage work close to home and the communities they love.

2) The Black Pine Mine will provide domestically sourced minerals in high demand by society and for United States defense. Despite the cost, gold is widely utilized in laptop computers and smartphones as well as other high-quality electronics. The silver to gold ratio at Black Pine I believe is around 8:1, meaning many times more silver will be produced than gold, and silver is listed as a strategic mineral, important for national defense and in medical applications. These minerals will be sourced somewhere. The Black Pine Project was previously mined, lacks many environmental pitfalls associated with other potential mine sites, and can be done in accordance with high US standards for environmental protections and oversight, absent in some other countries or regions of the world.

3) One proposed alternative for mining is the reprocessing of the legacy heap leach pad material. This former ore can be processed as pad liner without requiring disturbance and impact from sourcing this material from a distant off-site quarry or pit, since it is next to the proposed larger valley heap-leach facility. This has the added benefit of extracting any un-recovered gold contained in this material as well.

Perhaps the most favorable part of this proposal is the opportunity it provides to actually improve the environmental condition of the site. By exercising this alternative, Liberty Gold can utilize better engineering and reclamation practices to design and construct the new leach pad such that no long-term reclamation maintenance and monitoring issues are required as has been the case with the legacy heap infrastructure. When Pegasus filed bankruptcy for reasons independent of the 90's Black Pine operation economics, the Forest Service was left to monitor and treat water cycling through the old pad rock material. The pad was not designed and capped in such a way to keep precipitation from entering the pad and without processing facilities to process and recirculate this water, it became a task that has required attention for three decades by the US Forest Service, so by extension, at tax-payer expense.

4) Any human activity from housing construction to recreation, to mining almost anywhere will have some impact on the surrounding area. The Black Pine Project is not free of this condition, but does lack surface water streams and endangered species habitat. Sage grouse, however, are endemic to the area. Siting of water pipelines, electrical lines, roads and other necessary infrastructure should be done in such a way to minimize impact to sage grouse and construction timing should avoid leks while they are occupied.