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Comments: As a project manager with Granite Excavation Inc. here in Valley County, I wanted to take opportunity to comment during the Draft EIS period for the Stibnite Gold Project. Our company employees roughly 100 people throughout the state. We're locally owned and operated and we're proud partners with Midas Gold. And I wanted to share a few reasons why you should permit Alternative 2 for the Stibnite Gold Project.
Midas Gold cares about safety- of both its workforce and the community. The company has worked hard to ensure our safety during construction and operations of the Stibnite Gold Project. To minimize travel near important waterways, Midas Gold has proposed using Burntlog Road. This allows the company to take advantage of existing Forest Service roads and reduce travel on Johnson Creek and South Fork Road. And the company has extensive plans for protecting its workforce, with emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and emergency equipment and supplies on site, including an ambulance, first aid and medical supplies, along with an on-site mine rescue team.
As a local contractor, its been reassuring to see Midas' commitment to the community and, to hiring locally whenever possible. The company has promised to continue this practice as it moves through the construction and operational phases of the project, hiring as many 700 people initially and maintaining a workforce of more than 600 during the life of the project with payrolls in the 1Os of millions. With a cost of roughly $1.1 Billion to build and $230 million each year to operate, the Stibnite Gold Project will inject hundreds of millions of dollars into Idaho's economy, bringing hundreds of jobs into the state and contributing significant local and state tax revenue. That's real revenue for Valley County and Idaho and real life-sustaining jobs for hundreds of my friends and neighbors - and that's important.
Fina lly, I wanted to mention two other points about this project that are important to me, personally, both as a Valley County resident and, also, as an American. The plan Midas has outlined in Alternative 2 will finally mean cleaning up nearly 100 years of environmental problems left behind by previous mining operations at Stibnite. Midas is the only company to come to the table with a plan to invest the millions needed to clean the arsenic out of the water, restore critical fish passages, and remove tons of spent tailings from the site. And secondly, the antimony Midas will pull from the ground is one of 35 critical minerals that, according to the USGS, there was zero U.S. domestic mine production of in 2019. Additionally, there is only one processing facility in Montana producing minor amounts of antimony metal and oxide from recycled materials and imported feedstock. As a result, America is dependent on places like China and Russia to meet its antimony needs.

Ms. Jackson, this project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. It'll support hundreds of jobs, clean up that site, and do so while protecting the safety of our community and investment millions into our region. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit Alternative 2.