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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the Draft EIS period for the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP).

As a professional with more than 40 years in the mining industry, I have watched as the Stibnite Gold Project, which would produce over 4 million ounces of gold. This domestic supply would bolster the United States' position as a gold producer and allow us oversight of environmental conditions and mining practices. It will also build the only antimony mine in the U.S. Antimony is a critical mineral, used as a metal strengthener and fire retardant. It is used in everything from batteries, textiles, cell phones, plastics and cable sheathing. Right now, the U.S. imports all of our antimony, but when the SGP comes into production, estimates show that it could provide approximately one-quarter of American demand for antimony.

The US Forest Service and as many as 10 other local, State and federal agencies have spent more than 4 years examining the SGP. It has been designed in a way that, beyond simply mining ore, the Project will:

1. Improve water quality by reprocessing and safely storing millions of tons of historical tailings;
2. Restore fish migration to spawning grounds where access has been blocked for over 80 years;
3. Restore the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River to flow naturally and support fish passage after decades of pouring into an abandoned mining pit;
4. Exceed reclamation standards required by law with design that restores and creates dynamic ecosystems that are sustainable and long-term;
5. Be fully bonded to ensure restoration occurs.

After years of regulatory review, Midas Gold proposed refinements to the original Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) addressing direct feedback from Idahoans, reducing impacts on the environment and improving upon the design of the Project. This plan, the [acirc][euro][oelig]Modified PRO[acirc][euro] (Mod PRO) is now reflected in Alternative 2 of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Additionally, Midas Gold is committed to hiring, contracting and purchasing supplies and services locally wherever possible and has already spent more than \$69 million locally by prioritizing local vendors and contractors. The Project is an approximately \$1.1 billion dollar investment in Idaho and the company will spend an additional \$2+ billion over the life of the SGP.

I appreciate your time and thoughtfulness. The USFS has provided the public with a wide complement of tools to review the DEIS and make commenting within the 60-day timeframe possible. For the reasons I stated in my letter above, I support the Stibnite Gold Project using Alternative 2 and providing Idahoans and the country the ongoing economic and environmental benefits of this important project.