

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write to the U.S. Forest Service to encourage you to permit the proposed activities outlined by Midas Gold in the Plan of Restoration and Operations during this public input process.

By law Midas Gold Idaho is required to set aside all of the money needed for restoration prior to any mining activity. This gives me, and Idahoans, peace of mind that the restoration work the company has discussed will come to fruition no matter what happens. If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with its work, salmon will be reconnected to their native spawning grounds. This hasn't happened in 80 years! The US Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement concluded that removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.12-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations. Mining has devastated this area. Midas Gold Idaho wants to fix it and I hope you will clear the path to allow their restoration work to move forward.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to pick alternative 2 as the preferred alternative moving forward.

Regards,

Shanna Rickert

Name: Shanna Rickert