



WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE.

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

I am writing to the U.S. Forest Service today as a resident of central Idaho to voice my strong support for the Plan of Restoration and Operation (PRO) submitted by Midas Gold. Approval of this PRO will allow Midas to begin the Stibnite Gold Project. This project will provide a unique opportunity to bring both economic benefits and environmental cleanup to our region and will greatly improve our quality of life. I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to support the PRO as submitted by Midas.

A central component of Midas' proposal is to restore environmental damage caused by past mining projects done by other companies prior to the installation of current regulations. Previous excavations and mining operations have caused deforestation and disrupted key waterways throughout the region. Through a series of innovative restoration projects, Midas plans to restore roughly 6 miles of streams and rivers to improve fish migration, and allow populations of wild salmon and brook trout to reach spawning grounds. For decades these fish have been unable to replenish their populations. In addition, Midas will also invest in infrastructure upgrades to prevent sediment runoff from transportation. So far, Midas has also spent \$350,000 to improve roads and bridges, preventing future pollution.

In addition, as a CAT employee, I recognize the Stibnite Gold Project will provide economic return for not only our company, but also the state. We supply service and equipment to the mining industry and have years of experience doing so. The presence of Midas Gold will create hundreds of spin off jobs in our area. It is projected annually; the direct, indirect and induced impacts from local job creation are estimated at \$28.8 million per year in annual local income during construction, \$29.3 million per year during operations and \$5 million per year during final reclamation.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to support Alternative 2 as presented by Midas Gold.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Kipper', with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Kipper