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First name: Juan

Last name: Bonilla

Organization: Donnelly Rural Fire Protection District

Title: Fire Chief

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Period. As Chief of the Donnelly Fire Department, safety is a top priority for me and my team. We spend a lot of time trying to keep the community safe and are the first to respond if something does go wrong. From reviewing the Plan of Restoration and Operations, it is evident safety is also a top value and priority for Midas Gold and something the company has carefully considering in everything they do.

Unfortunately, we see too many accidents on backcountry roads each year. It was important to me that Midas Gold found a safe access route to the site during construction and operations. I feel confident in the company's plan to use Burntlog Road and limit the number of daily trips. Midas plans to bus employees into the site and have them stay there during their shifts. This seemingly small decision will greatly reduce the number of vehicles on the road and help prevent accidents.

The route the company chose also keeps vehicles away from the river and limits stream crossing. This will help to keep sediment out of our community's waterways and prevent potential spills. If the company continues to use Johnson Creek Road and Stibnite Road to get to site, they will be traveling directly next to the river for approximately 40 miles. Using Burntlog Road, and the historical routes miners used to get to Thunder Mountain in the late 1800s, is a much safer choice for our community. I urge the U.S. Forest Service to pick this route as the preferred alternative moving forward.