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Last name: Lodge

Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: Senator

Comments: I want to take this opportunity to place my comments on the Midas Gold Idaho's Plan of Restoration and Operations that is before you at this time. Growing up in Idaho I have visited the area of concern many times with my Father and my family. The Idaho wilderness is an important asset to our citizens for recreation and the use of natural resources. Over the years I have been a member of the Idaho Senate I have had the opportunity to hear a handful of presentations on the Stibnite Gold Project. I have sat down with staff and learned about their mission in Idaho. It is with the knowledge that has been presented to me that I encourage you to adopt the proposed activities outlined by Midas Gold in the Plan of Restoration and Operations during EIS scoping.

This project will also help restore the environment in this beautiful part of our State. Midas Gold has prioritized restoration work and so many of the efforts occur early in the project. The company is also required to set aside all of the funds needed to properly restore the site in a special trust so the land will be restored no matter what happens to the company. Reclamation efforts have already started at the site. Midas Gold has planted hundreds of trees and worked to reduce sediment entering waterways near the site. These actions have shown me the company is truly committed to restoring the site.

I ask the U.S. Forest Service to pick this route as the preferred alternative moving forward. I have asked tough questions of the company on restoration activities and I am confident with the set aside funds the land will be restored. I also feel that the Stibnite Gold Project is a great opportunity for citizens in our state. I ask that you accept Midas Gold's preferred alternatives and continue moving this project forward.