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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Comment Period. I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans since they first came into our state. I have attended as many public meetings as my schedule has allowed, and written a number of letters of support over the years. Most recently, I have signed up for the webinars Midas has produced to inform the public. My comments here reflect what I have learned from those webinars.

I would first note the caliber of the professionals hired by Midas to work on various aspects of this complex project. I have spent my working life in a competitive academic environment, and the presentations given throughout these webinars has been excellent in content and in tone. Second, I am struck by the amount of detail that must be attended to for this to be a successful effort, from roads, to transportation, to water safety, to fish passage, to tailing use and storage.

I know those who oppose Midas usually decry any and all mining efforts, but it would be worthwhile to pause and examine the planning work put forward by this multidisciplinary team in our current regulatory environment which DID NOT exist when previous mining ravaged the land. Listening to the people working on this, I am convinced that they intend to do what they say they will do with site restoration and their ongoing commitment to collaborating with the Forest Service, the cities of Cascade and McCall, the Idaho Department of Transportation, and other entities.

I am not by training a biologist, or an engineer, or a forester, or any of the other professionals working on this initiative. I am a concerned citizen, hoping that this effort going on now for some 10 years will be recognized and supported for the positive contributions it would make to the land and to our people.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit alternative 2 so this brownfield site can finally be restored.