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Comments: I have reviewed the Plan of Restoration and Operations and met with members of Midas Gold Idaho to better understand the company's plans for the Stibnite Gold Project. Below are my comments on the plan to be included in the comment period.

The Stibnite Gold Project will help to restore the environment in our region. Under alternative two, Midas Gold has prioritized restoration work so many of the efforts occur early in the project. For example, Midas Gold will build a fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit to provide access to native upstream habitat. The U.S. Forest Service's analysis in the DEIS (4.12-39) shows this could increase and improve overall productivity and even diversity among chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. 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 thousands of trees and worked to reduce sediment entering waterways near the site. To me, these actions prove the company is truly committed to restoring the site.

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to continue to move the project forward and permit the site using alternative 2 as the guide.