

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2020 6:00:00 AM

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Title:

Comments: I am writing today as a resident of central Idaho to voice my strong support for the Plan of Restoration and Operation from Midas Gold. Approval of this plan will help the U.S. Forest Service accomplish its fundamental mission: to protect and preserve our nation's national parks and forests. Through a comprehensive environmental campaign, Midas plans to restore and reclaim dozens of acres of forests, plant tens of thousands of trees, and restore several miles of waterways. For far too long the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region has suffered from the impact of past mining projects. When I first learned of Midas's plan to restore the environment, and bring jobs to our region I thought, "Finally, this is just what we need!"

Past mining projects have created many environmental problems for our communities. These include deforestation, habitat loss, sediment buildup, leftover debris, and water pollution. Through private funding, Midas will deal with all of the above in a safe, effective, and meaningful way. Midas has already put their words into action, by planting over 55,000 trees, and investing \$350,000 into infrastructure upgrades, which will prevent future sediment runoff. In addition, Midas has recycled 4,000 lbs of waste and debris from past and present operations. I look forward to the numerous restoration projects that will come with the approval of the PRO.

The Gold Project will also create 500 direct jobs for hardworking Idahoans, and will provide families in the region with a solid and stable source of income for years to come. Midas plans to pay their employees \$80,000 annually, which will boost our local economy, and help families save and invest for their futures. State and local government will also receive tens of millions of dollars in surplus tax revenue as well, which can be used for public safety, education, and infrastructure upgrades.

I strongly encourage you to support Alternative 2 as presented by Midas Gold Idaho for the above stated reasons.