

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/22/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Ysabel

Last name: Bilbao

Organization: Bilbao & Co.

Title:

Comments: I am a native Idahoan, first generation, a minority and small business owner who has had the ability to watch the progression of the Midas Gold project over the past several years, and that is why I am taking the time to write to you today. I whole heartedly support this project and see so many benefits to our surrounding communities and our state, including an incredible economic boost to Idaho and a true use and restoration to the ground and environment - it is not every day that we can safeguard both.

Over the past many years, I have had the opportunity to visit and enjoy Valley and its surrounding counties and that is exactly why I would like to urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve Alternative 2 from the draft EIS. This project not only includes a comprehensive plan to enhance the water quality and fish habitat of the Salmon River, but it will also have an enormous impact on Idaho's economy.

Midas Gold has done an incredible and thorough job of carefully evaluating the site over the past decade, collecting water samples that have shown high arsenic and antimony levels, neither of which are considered acceptable for drinking water or aquatic life standards. Midas Gold has committed themselves to be a part of the solution by designing the Stibnite Gold Project to improve water quality, along with addressing other environmental concerns.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and rewrite the legacy of this region. This is the type of project our state needs. In my own family we have husbands and cousins who have been forced out of Idaho to work in surrounding states. They want to come home and do good work right here, where they are only a car ride away from attending their children's' school programs, watching their ball games and being closer for the holidays. A project like this one will allow for that in Idaho.

Please approve Alternative 2, Idaho and Idahoans need it.