

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Allison

Last name: Giles

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to voice my support for the Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) submitted by Midas to the United States Forest Service. Approval will allow Midas Gold to begin the Stibnite Gold Project, which will create hundreds of jobs for local communities, and it will inject millions of dollars of investment into the region. In addition, this comprehensive plan will work to restore habitats and fix environmental degradation from past mining projects.

Once the U.S. Forest Service approves the PRO, Midas will start the Stibnite Gold Project. This project is estimated to employ 500 Idahoans, including miners, general laborers, mechanics, geologists, administrators, and technicians. The project will also bolster the health of local businesses, creating over \$152 million in sales and commerce during mining operations. Good salaries and economic growth will allow state and municipal authorities to collect more tax revenues, which is money that can be used for infrastructure, public safety, education, and social services for Idaho.

Midas Gold has detailed an environmental restoration plan to correct past environmental damages in the Stibnite region. Environmental cleanup will be expensive; but Midas Gold will cover all costs through private investment. Midas Gold has planted over 55,000 trees, and has reclaimed 33 acres of forest that were lost to deforestation from mining operations. The company also has worked to keep access to Idaho's backcountry open and kept recreational safety a top priority in the design and operation of the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. Midas Gold designed Alternative 2 to increase safety and establish access routes to the site that keeps the public away from mining operations.

Midas Gold will also restore natural rivers and streams, and has created a plan to re-establish salmon migration patterns which have been disrupted by construction and mining from past projects. Furthermore, Midas Gold has invested \$350,000 into local infrastructure upgrades, which will prevent sediment run off from polluting waterways throughout the region.

I encourage you to support Alternative 2, proposed by Midas Gold Idaho as it gives central Idaho a comprehensive plan to revitalize the region's economy and restore its environmental wellbeing