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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to you today to ask for your support of the permitting of the Stibnite Gold Project, specifically the Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) that Midas Gold submitted to the U.S. Forest Service. I have confidence that this project holds an incredible amount of potential to improve Idaho's economy and environment. Midas Gold Idaho's plan should be approved immediately.

I know that several Idahoans are understandably hesitant about welcoming another mining project. Previous mining endeavors, executed before regulatory requirements were established to ensure there was no damage to the surrounding area, have left behind a series of long-lasting environmental problems. Midas Gold has committed to correct the damage left behind by previous projects. A few of their proposed clean-up initiatives include, among initiatives, repairing deforestation, erosion, and sedimentation of waterways.

Knowing that our recreation and snowmobiling industries are important, the company has worked to keep access to Idaho's backcountry open and kept our member's 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 actively collaborated with local snowmobiling organizations to mitigate impact from their activities.

This project will also contribute significantly to the state of Idaho. It has the potential to add hundreds of millions of dollars to Idaho's economy, bring hundreds of jobs into the state and contribute significant local and state tax revenue. Midas Gold also anticipates providing approximately 500 direct jobs for the community with an annual payroll ranging from \$48 million to \$51 million. Additionally, they have committed to prioritize hiring, contracting and purchasing supplies and services from our communities whenever reasonably possible.

We should take advantage of this unique opportunity as soon as possible. For all of these reasons I ask you to approve Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho in their Plan of Restoration and Operations.