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Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS,

The following comments reflect my support of Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project in central Idaho. This project offers an excellent opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost the state's economy, and use private investment to clean up a brownfield site. It will also set a new standard for responsible mine development in the USA.

I am a geologist with over 60 years of field and exploration management experience and am still actively consulting. I have visited the project in the field and have discussed it with Midas staff. I have known the Midas president, Stephen Quin, personally having worked on various exploration projects and served on corporate boards with him since the early 1990s. Everything he has done in the past has been carefully planned and the high quality of the Board of Directors of Midas, many of whom I have known for years reflect a culture of responsible exploration, mine development, mine financing, and mining operations.

Alternative Two as proposed by Midas Gold is the best solution to protect fish populations and the environment. It includes several updates from Alternative One that reduce impact to salmon habitat and increase environmental safeguards. Alternative Two will facilitate action in the near term compared to Alternatives Three and Four that would delay the project by two years, slowing down the environmental and economic benefits the Stibnite Gold Project promises to bring. Right now, with the ongoing crisis caused by the pandemic, we need to build a strong domestic supply chain and provide well-paying jobs for Idahoans. A delay in the project would have negative impacts to rural communities. While I know Alternative Five must be considered, we have come too far in this process to take no action at all in the historical Stibnite Mining District. If Midas Gold is not allowed to move forward with its project, the problems facing the region will likely only get worse.

Midas Gold's plan to invest \$1 billion in the project will bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands, the type of project our country needs. And with the coronavirus, we need it now more than ever. The USFS has provided sufficient time to review the document and provide comments. It is time to move forward. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to pick Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for the Stibnite Gold Project. It will also set a new, higher standard for mine developments in the USA and elsewhere.

Finally, although initial mine developments always evaluate the economics for a specific time frame, the extent of mineralization at Stibnite suggests the mine life may be several times or more as long as in the initial plan, subject of course to ongoing project reviews by 3rd party regulatory agencies. Mining operations with long lives invariably provide sufficiently sustained economic benefits to the surrounding regions that new sustainable businesses different from mining are a frequent result.