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Title:

Comments: Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project presents Idaho, particularly rural Idaho, with a huge economic and environmental opportunity. I work for Western State CAT and have watched Midas Gold's plan over the last several years. I am writing to encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible.

One of the biggest challenges facing Idaho is having a trained workforce. Midas Gold not only plans to hire hundreds of Idahoans but the company will provide employees with training to build a more skilled workforce in Idaho. We applaud Midas Gold's commitment to helping Idahoans get valuable training that may not otherwise be available. This commitment by the company will help benefit Idaho families and allow Idaho to attract new businesses in the future. To date, Midas Gold has spent over \$89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors, like Western State CAT.

If the project moves forward, they will also invest heavily in environmental restoration, especially under alternative 2. During operations, Midas Gold will treat water to lower levels of arsenic, antimony and mercury in the river. This investment will cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). The company will also be able to increase productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations of chinook, bull trout and steel head by opening up long-term access to blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-39).

After reading my letter, I hope you can see why you should permit alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project. This project is a good thing for Idaho and cleans up the environment. The USFS has provided ample timing to review the project and these benefits cannot wait. Sixty days is long enough for the comment period.