Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Mike
Last name: Hernandez
Organization: Western States CAT
Title:
Comments: I am writing to you today to express my support for the Stibnite Gold project that was proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. As a resident in the Stibnite region, I believe this project not only has economic benefits, but also has the ability to improve our region's ecosystem. The USFS has compiled a Draft Environmental Impact Statement where many state agencies have suggested that the Stibnite Gold project would provide restoration to previous mining endeavors.

Midas Gold will provide a safer and more environmentally friendly way to mine while also committing to a restoration project that will repair damage caused over the last 100 years. For example, Midas Gold is focused on cleaning the Salmon River where that ecosystem has had significant loss. Midas already has drawn up plans to remove junk and debris from the river to ultimately clear the Yellow Pine Pit, which would allow Salmon to flourish once again.

I am a proud CAT employee, I am also encouraged by the economic impact this project will have across Idaho . Midas Gold has committed to hiring, contracting, and purchasing supplies and services locally whenever possible. To date, Midas Gold has spent over $89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors. With a cost of roughly $1.1 Billion to build and roughly $230 million each year to operate, the Stibnite Gold Project will inject hundreds of millions of dollars into the state's economy, bring hundreds of jobs into the state and contribute significant local and state tax revenue

Especially after this tough year of uncertainty, it would be an absolute blessing for Midas Gold to invest in the Stibnite region. I truly believe this project is the solution to the economic and environmental problems that have been going on for decades in our region. With great support, I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the proposal of Midas Gold's Alternative 2.