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First name: Dean O

Last name: Miller

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: Please accept my support for Midas Gold Idaho and their Stibnite Gold Project . It presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

I care deeply about the land. The natural beauty of Idaho is what makes this place unique. But after 100 years of intermittent mining activity, this area is in dire need of restoration. I believe Midas Gold Idaho has a solid plan to sustainability clean up the mess left by these previous mining operations. Most importantly, I am encouraged by their pledge to reestablish fish migration and rehabilitate

the surrounding watershed. Today, the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River dumps into an abandoned pit, hindering the local fish populations from migrating upstream for the last 80 years. Midas Gold has pledged to remove the existing barriers to fish migration and re-establish the salmon and steelhead fish passage in the river . Your draft environmental impact statement found these solutions will help fish diversity and productivity (Chapter 4).

I work with Western States CAT and we care deeply about the wellbeing of the people here. They are our friends and neighbors. Based on an independent economic study conducted by Highland Economics, if Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to proceed with the Stibnite Gold Project, this area would see hundreds of new jobs. Plus, direct job creation would develop millions in revenues that would go back into our community. In fact, the analysis estimates more than \$18 million would be generated during construction and then another \$20 million-plus during operations and reclamation . This would

provide significant revenues for our public works including our schools, law enforcement, and public infrastructure. Overall, the Stibnite Gold Project would be an estimated \$1 billion dollar investment in Idaho. That is something Idaho cannot afford to pass up.

After careful consideration, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt alternative 2 laid out by Midas Gold Idaho and move this project forward as quickly as possible.