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Organization: GS Strategy Group

Title: President

Comments: I would like to express my support for Midas Gold Idaho's proposed Stibnite Gold Project and Alternative 2 examined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

As a business owner and employer in Idaho, I understand the importance of job creation. This project will create exactly the kinds of jobs that rural Idahoans need and deserve. In fact, during the construction period alone, it would directly employ up to 700 people with a payroll nearing \$50 million annually. And these jobs aren't just jobs, they are good jobs, with salaries that, at an average of \$80,000 per year, would more than double the current salaries in the region.

Because Midas Gold has committed to prioritizing the hiring of local residents throughout the life of the project, the opportunities this project will provide to those living live near the site cannot be overstated. The financial benefits of this project will extend far beyond the hundreds of individuals who are hired into these excellent positions. The company will also support training opportunities for Idahoans throughout the life of its project by working directly with schools, community colleges and the Idaho Department of Labor. Even Idahoans living well outside the project's footprint will see direct benefits, since the project will produce over a half-billion federal tax dollars and more than two hundred million dollars in state and local taxes, which go directly toward public works like our schools, road repairs, infrastructure and more.

The environmental situation in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region has also been a concern to me, particularly since the quality of life for local fish and wildlife has been greatly reduced because of historic mining activities. I am heartened to know that Midas Gold's plan for the Stibnite Gold Project for the project helps address this issue by building a tunnel to connect fish to miles of new stream for feeding and spawning. I especially like the fact that, after the project ends, Midas will take steps to reunite fish with their native spawning grounds once and for all. According to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, all these efforts would help local populations of fish immensely. When it comes down to it, Alternative 2 is the best option because it would enable the restoration work to begin much sooner than the other alternatives.

To sum up - this project's economic benefits are a great opportunity for Idahoans while its environmental benefits are great for fish and fishermen alike. These reasons are why I am so passionate about ensuring your support on this venture. I encourage you, the U.S. Forest Service to consider these economic projections in making your final decision. This investment is not only for Idaho, but also for each of the members of our community whose lives would benefit tremendously. Thank you for your consideration.