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First name: John

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Organization: New Jersey Mining Company

Title: CEO

Comments: Aside from the financial benefits, I support the clean-up of former mine waste from past era's - and I believe this project has the potential to both create quality jobs and leave a formerly disturbed area better than it exists today.

This project has the opportunity to become a "win-win", and if for some reason there is a tendency to "say no for the sake of saying no", then we really need to determine if saying "no" is actually better for the area, state and our fellow citizens than the alternative.

I believe we need to demonstrate an effort to be reasonable and put forth an honest effort to keep the goal posts in place, which includes keeping the comment period to 60 days. Additionally, the demand for these minerals will not go away, only the jobs will go away along with essentially exporting environmental issues to jurisdictions where there is little or no enforcement of responsible environmental standards. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select the modified plan of restoration and operations Midas Gold Idaho presented, known as Alternative 2 in the draft Environmental Impact Statement, and permit the project.

I have not only saved and restored a historic train station in Coeur d'Alene, we have taken older buildings are repurposed them into a more modern use, thus saving local jobs and hopefully creating a business use for the next 100 years. Additionally, we have worked hard to save/conservate a considerable amount of acreage within our area. In short, we live here and would like to see a balanced approach to this project and future considerations. Furthermore, we have saved and actually moved two historic residences in Coeur d'Alene - so we are major supporters of historic preservation as well as the responsible creation of jobs in Idaho.