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First name: Russ

Last name: Rader

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Midas Gold has presented a unique opportunity for the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region. The Stibnite Gold project will bring jobs, and environmental restoration to central Idaho. I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to support the Plan of Restoration and Operation (PRO), which Midas Gold has submitted. Failure to do so will simply maintain the status quo. That means this region will continue to suffer from the environmental damage of the past, and will not develop its economy as our nation reels from the recession caused by the global pandemic.

Critics of Midas Gold have incorrectly assumed that Midas will contribute to deforestation and environmental degradation of the region. However, these claims are categorically inaccurate. Midas has demonstrated a deep level of commitment to the environmental wellbeing of central Idaho, and has taken steps to fix damage from the past. So far, Midas has planted over 55,000 trees, and has reclaimed 33 acres of forest. Midas will also work to remove debris and equipment left from past mining projects, further cleaning up woodland ecosystems damaged from past operations.

Some critics have raised concerns that mining operations will pollute waterways and release toxins into rivers and streams, killing fish populations. These claims are false and misguided. While past mining projects have eroded waterways and damaged ecosystems, Midas has dedicated extensive time and resources to learn from past mistakes. In fact, Midas plans to restore and develop six miles of waterways, and has spent over \$350,000 to improve infrastructure in order to avoid sediment runoff. In addition, Midas also plans to engineer a state of the art fish tunnel, which will allow salmon and brook trout to easily navigate through the mining site.

The Midas Gold project will help the U.S. Forest Service accomplish its fundamental mission to protect and preserve our national forests and parks. I encourage you to adopt Alternative 2 presented by Midas Gold Idaho.