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Comments: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor'

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I write to the U.S. Forest Service to voice my strong support for the modified Plan of Restoration and Operations (Mod PRO) that Midas Gold has submitted and is examined as Alternative 2 in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). I believe that this project will help the US Forest Service accomplish its mission to sustain the health and wellbeing of our nation's forests, as Midas Gold has committed itself to environmental restoration and cleaning up past mining projects. Approval of the Mod PRO will allow Midas to restore the forests and waterways of the Stibnite -Yellow Pine region, which have been suffering from habitat loss for decades. In addition, this project will bring jobs and opportunity to our regional economy during these challenging times.

I have long supported this open-pit mining project as it will provide economic opportunity and jobs to families in the region. They anticipate their project will create 500 jobs during operation and that does not even count the indirect jobs that will be created with their economic investment.

The Stibnite Gold Project will also make our region's environment more sustainable. Midas plans to plant tens of thousands of trees, and will cleanup debris from past mining projects. In addition, Midas will also recycle thousands of tons of waste from past and present operations, ensuring that plastics and refuse from the project do not end up back in our environment. Midas will also work to restore miles of streams and rivers, and plans to build fish tunnels around the site during operations. These measures will allow fish like salmon and brook trout to reach spawning areas, replenishing their populations, which have been declining for decades. The US Forest Service's DEIS concluded that removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.12 -33 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations.

I look forward to this environmental restoration, as it will create a better landscape for our children and future generations to enjoy. Promoting biodiversity and restoring natural habitats will provide the green spaces necessary to hike, swim, and enjoy the splendor of central Idaho for countless generations to come.

I believe that the U.S. Forest Service should support alternative 2, as it will help the U.S. Forest Service accomplish its fundamental mission.

Thank you

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Robert Minard