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Title:

Comments: I write today to voice my support for the Plan of Restoration and Operation (PRO) which Midas Gold has submitted to the United States Forest Service. I believe that this PRO will help the US Forest Service accomplish its mission to protect the environmental health and wellbeing of our nation's forests. Rather than contributing to environmental degradation and deforestation, Midas Gold has outlined a comprehensive plan which will work to correct damage from previous mining projects. As a resident of central Idaho, and a CAT employee, I welcome Midas Gold, and look forward to the environmental and economic prosperity that they will bring to the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region. I urge you to support the PRO as submitted by Midas for the following reasons.

Midas Gold has demonstrated a deep commitment to the environmental wellbeing of Stibnite. Through their environmental restoration plan, Midas will restore over six miles of streams and waterways throughout central Idaho. In addition, Midas will build fish tunnels around the site of mining operations in order to allow populations of salmon and brook trout to migrate more easily to their spawning grounds. Also, Midas will plant tens of thousands of trees, and has already reclaimed 33 acres of forest which were lost to deforestation from past mining projects. I look forward to this restoration, as it will allow my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to enjoy the beauty of Stibnite-Yellow Pine. It will also make the region a more attractive destination for hikers, campers, hunters, and tourists, increasing revenue for the local economy, and putting us back on the map!

The Gold Project will also create over 500 jobs for hardworking Idahoans. Midas plans to source all talent locally before looking to other parts of the state for workers. In addition, Midas plans to pay workers \$80,000 annually, a salary that is 45% higher than the state average. Independent estimates also suggest indirect employment of upwards of 800 people during construction and 600 people during operations including personnel involved in the supply chain for consumables used at site, for transportation, for increased needs in local communities and other areas.

Ultimately, Midas will bring renewed economic success and environmental restoration to central Idaho. I strongly urge you to support Alternative 2 presented by Midas Gold Idaho.