Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 6:00:00 AM
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Title:
Comments: As an Idaho resident and a proud CAT employee, I am a strong supporter of the Midas Gold Stibnite Gold project, as it will bring enormous economic benefit to our region specifically and the state overall. This project is guaranteed to produce hundreds of millions of dollars for Idaho's economy as well as provide good paying jobs to community members. I would like to explain further, why I believe the U.S. Forest Reserve support Midas Gold.

Midas Gold will bring great economic resources to the people of Idaho by employing and outsourcing project materials from local residents whenever possible. During construction alone, Midas Gold will employ 600 to 700 people, with an emphasis on hiring and local residents first. Among these employees, the annual payroll total would range from $42 million to $49 million. During operations, Midas Gold is anticipating the hiring of 500 community members which will provide a $48 million to $51 million annual payroll. The average annual salary in the area is estimated at $35,000. Midas Gold's project would increase that average annual salary to $80,000. These positions include management, administration, equipment operators, general laborers, mechanics, electricians, engineers, surveyors, geologist and environmental/safety specialists. The company has also pledged to support training opportunities throughout the life of the project, working directly with schools, community colleges and the Idaho Department of Labor.

Additionally, the taxes generated from this project will benefit the state tremendously. Based on the 2014 Pre-Feasibility Study, the direct and indirect taxes that will accumulate over the life of the project are an estimated $506 million at a federal level and $218 million in state and local taxes. That money would go towards funding schools, first responders and other necessities in the community that rely on governmental resources. Midas Gold alone would pay roughly $329 million in federal corporate taxes and an additional $86 million in state corporate income taxes.

The benefits of Midas Gold are endless, and extend far beyond the immediate community. By creating jobs and bringing wealth to the region, other businesses and neighboring communities will be interested in relocating or bringing their business there. Midas Gold is the catalyst for this community growth, and has my full support. I urge you, the U.S. Forest Service, to support Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho.