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Comments: I want to submit my observations of this proposed project in the Payette National Forest.

The documentation made available for this proposed project is sufficiently detailed to provide interested parties with the necessary information to assess the project. I have participated in NEPA processes for both Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements in Alaska. Based upon the scope and totality of the information provided, I am impressed with the quality of the public information presented. This is one aspect of my support and endorsement for the proposed project.

The site characterization and remediation plans for those previously disturbed areas clearly indicates that Midas Gold has a commitment to both improve habitat and for long-term restoration effort as the project is developed until it eventually reaches it's economic limit. The western United States is marked by areas of mining that had no obligation for restoration and while some view this a historic past practice others cite these as a reason to not approve such activity. Voluntary restoration plans that commence as part of site development are sound and lend greater credence to a realization that corrective action is necessary, even though it is not the responsibility of Midas Gold. I have studied some mining restoration projects in Alaska and these have been very successful with habitat restoration and the plan advanced by Midas Gold appears to have characterized the work required so that this phase will also be successful.

The economic benefit to the local area is significant and development of a strategic mineral resource further supports project approval, when considered on a national level. This aspect also extends to the State of Idaho who will benefit from the employment and commercial activity that will go well beyond the immediate project location.

In summary, I strongly encourage approval of the proposed mining project "Stibnite Gold" in the Payette National Forest.