Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/2/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Cecil
Last name: Dahlman
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing to you today to comment in support for the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. Idaho needs the wealth that mining can create without the accompanying environmental harm. The Stibnite Gold project can accomplish just that.

Midas Gold's plan balances mining with restoration, using the former to fund the latter. Over the duration of the project, Midas Gold will reforest damaged land, repair polluted waterways, and remove toxic waste left behind by past operations.

Simultaneously, they will provide 500 high-paying jobs, generate hundreds of millions of dollars in state and local taxes, and improve the well-being of thousands of Idahoans. It is difficult to envision a more exciting business proposal.

Midas Gold's environmental and economic commitments are backed up by their actions. The company has spent ten years researching the site and working with nearby towns to ensure that their proposal reflects local interests and values. If that was not enough, federal regulations require Midas Gold to set aside funds for restoration before any work can begin, so there is no risk of them failing to honor their promises.

The Stibnite Gold project is the culmination of a decade of research, engagement, and planning towards a better future for Idaho. For example, Alternative 2 their preferred alternative is a result of the company listening and adapting to make the project the best it can possibly be. One perfect example is the way they would address backfilling Hanger Flats and the Midnight mine pit. In their modified PRO, they would backfill the Midnight mine pit and partially backfill the Hangar Flats mine pit to reduce the future pit lake to a depth of 140 feet, from original depth of 600 feet (See: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Table 2.2-1).

It would be a great shame to give up this opportunity to grow our economy and restore our environment.

For these reasons, please approve Alternative 2 proposed in the draft environmental impact statement by the US Forest Service. This Alternative is superior to the others as it clearly represents the safest and most environmentally responsible option.