

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/7/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Jackie

Last name: Jondrich

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a resident of central Idaho, I am writing today to urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve the Plan of Restoration and Operation as submitted by Midas Gold. Approval of this PRO will help the Forest Service accomplish its fundamental mission: to protect and preserve our nation's forests and national parks. For decades, the Stibnite Yellow Pine region of central Idaho has suffered from environmental degradation and habitat loss. Past mining projects have uprooted trees, polluted rivers, have left debris along the landscape, and have caused sediment to build-up in waterways. Midas, through a comprehensive environmental plan, will fix all of the above through private investment, at no additional expense to the taxpayer.

What sets Midas apart from other mining companies is their commitment to the people and the land. Already, Midas has planted 55,000 trees, reclaiming nearly 33 acres of forest previously lost to deforestation. In addition, Midas has invested \$350,000 into infrastructure upgrades, which will make it easier for Idahoans to get from point A to points, but also prevent sediment runoff from transportation. Midas will also create an impressive network of fish tunnels around the mining site in order to allow salmon and brook trout to reach their spawning grounds. I am impressed by their attention to detail, and commitment to restoring over six miles of streams and rivers that have eroded from past mining projects.

Furthermore, the Stibnite Gold Project will create hundreds of jobs for central Idahoans, and will generate millions of dollars in commerce for our local economy. As our nation faces a recession caused by the Covid -19 pandemic, we need an injection of capital into our region now more than ever. Midas has presented this region with the perfect plan to bring environmental restoration and economic prosperity. I urge you to approve Alternative 2 outlined by Midas Gold Idaho.