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Title:
Comments: I am writing to the U.S. Forest Service to voice my opinion on an issue that concerns central Idaho. Recently, Midas Gold submitted a Plan for Restoration and Operation (PRO). Approval of this PRO will allow Midas to begin the Stibnite Gold Project. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide hundreds of jobs to central Idaho, and is a step in the right direction to boost our region's economy. Most importantly, Midas is a transparent company, which is seeking to correct past environmental damage through private investment. It is within the interests of the U.S. Forest Service to pass this PRO, as it will help the Service accomplish its fundamental aim: to protect and preserve our nation's forests.

Mining operations from past projects have caused unnecessary deforestation, and environmental damage. Midas has invested considerable resources and effort to figure out what steps to take in order to improve the region's environmental health while they begin operations. They have spoken directly with the communities in this region to figure out what needs to be prioritized, and where to begin. So far, they have spent $350,000 in infrastructure upgrades; a necessary first step to prevent sediment runoff, which has been a problem for years. They have also planted over 55,000 trees, and have reclaimed 33 acres of forest.

Midas has also planned to deal with the rivers and runways that have suffered from damage. A major component of their environmental restoration plan will deal with creating a fish tunnel to allow populations of salmon and trout to reach their breeding grounds. I look forward to enjoying the beauty of central Idaho's wilderness for generations to come. Seldom have few companies placed such a stake in the environmental wellbeing of central Idaho, which is why we welcome their business and urge the Forest Service to promptly approve of the PRO. It is time to adopt Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho.