



IDAHO MINING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1660 • Boise, ID 83701
208.342.0031 • ima@idahomining.org

Benjamin J. Davenport
P.O. Box 1660, Boise, Idaho 83701
bdavenport@mineidaho.com
(208)342-0031

Payette National Forest
ATTN: Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom
Stibnite Gold EIS
500 N. Mission St.
McCall, ID 83638
Via electronic mail: comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us

June 22, 2017

Re: Stibnite Gold Project Scoping

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during scoping on the Stibnite Gold Project.

IMA has long been a trusted voice on mining issues in the state of Idaho. For well over 100 years we have represented miners and mining companies engaged in mineral exploration, mineral developments, and land reclamation throughout the state of Idaho. Our membership not only consists of mining companies but also companies and industries that provide services to the mining industry within the state. IMA and its members are committed to responsible and sustainable mineral withdrawal in Idaho and our member companies continue to utilize and explore more innovative and science based methods to extract minerals for the societal needs of everyday life while protecting and preserving the environment in Idaho for future generations. On behalf of the Idaho Mining Industry, I have reviewed the proposed Plan of Restoration and Operations. The Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity for industry to offer a win/win solution to an area in significant need of repair. As proposed, the project finances and provides the workforce and resources necessary to complete the much-needed environmental reclamation while at the same time extracting valuable and vital minerals we use daily.

The mining industry has been on the forefront of advancing reclamation efforts by creating and utilizing science based environmentally responsible methods to extract minerals and protect the environment going forward. Midas Gold is a company that has been leading the way as an example of transparency, community involvement and sustainable practices. Midas Gold has proposed a project that makes restoration of the environment a priority by correcting legacy issues left behind long ago.

R e s p e c t i n g T h e T r e a s u r e s O f O u r L a n d

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Particularly significant in this plan is the repair of the South Fork of the Salmon River that flows into the Yellow Pine pit. This stream repair proposes to open a fish migration route that has been blocked since 1938. The site redevelopment plan includes development and restoration of this fish passage, allowing fish access to nearly 6-linear miles of stream channel and creation of significant new wetlands and aquatic habitat.

While the environmental benefits are significant, it is difficult to ignore the positive economic impact that will come along with this project as well. Midas proposes that the project will directly employ 400-500 employees during construction and operations with an annual payroll exceeding \$34 million. These direct impacts do not take into consideration the indirect impacts of an employer of this magnitude will have on the local economy in Valley County, nor do they consider the over \$100 million already contributed to the state and local economy. Further, Midas estimates that for every 100 jobs created by the mine there will be 80 indirect jobs created elsewhere throughout the community.

I urge you to select the proposed activities as outlined in the Plan of Restoration and Operations as the preferred alternative during the EIS process and approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. J. Davenport', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Benjamin J. Davenport
Executive Vice President, Idaho Mining Association