

From: Ron Oberbillig
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Midas Gold Project at Stibnite
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 7:24:00 PM

My family and I have been involved in mining and other activities in Valley County for over 100 years. We enthusiastically support the Midas project. The company has conducted its activities over a number of years in a thoroughly sensitive and responsible manner. We have come to know the company's leadership quite well and have confidence in their approach to this project and their professionalism.

In addition, the financial and logistical support provided by Midas to the county and nearby communities is noteworthy and reflects the positive manner the company has engaged all constituencies. Moreover, Midas formed an Idaho subsidiary to administer the project and hired Idaho people to accomplish much of the work to date. There's little doubt many additional jobs will be created when the project goes into operation. We believe the Forest Service and other government agencies should approve necessary permits for the mining operation as quickly as possible. The project has already taken about ten years and cost many millions of dollars.

The emphasis of Midas Gold in the Operating Plan on conducting much-needed restoration work at Stibnite early in the life of the project is critically important. Of course, the remediation plan at the conclusion of the project is even more vital for the long-term. Without a doubt, this remediation will not get done without Midas. It is likely the last opportunity to remediate and reclaim the historically important Stibnite area for Idaho and the country.

The chief concern with the Operating Plan pertains to roads and, in particular, the closing of the Stibnite Road from Yellow Pine. The Burnt Log Road may be a good supply route to Stibnite but is clearly not optimum and will likely create economic and other problems for Yellow Pine. The Operating Plan should be revised to provide access from Yellow Pine to Thunder Mountain on roads that have existed for many decades or on similar roads that ensure reasonably direct access to the Wilderness Area. That objective can best be accomplished by a series of temporary roads around the proposed Yellow Pine Pit at Stibnite. Another option might be to upgrade Sugar Creek Road, which should qualify for RS-2477 designation as a county road. That road was the primary access road to our 500 acres of private property at Cinnabar prior to the Forest Service illegally closing it in 2016.

Midas Gold has been and will continue to be an excellent partner for the community of Yellow Pine, Valley County and the State of Idaho. We strongly urge the Forest Service to approve the Operating Plan and help secure necessary permits for a mining and reclamation project at Stibnite.

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