

Payette National Forest
Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom
500 N. Mission St., McCall, ID 83638.

Re: The Stibnite Gold Project

12-July-2017

Dear Mr. Lannom;

This letter pertains to the process underway for the study of the environmental impacts of the STIBNITE GOLD PROJECT (the "Project") in Idaho. I am aware that a Notice of Intent (NOI) has been published by the US Forest Service (USFS) on June 5, 2017 and that the NOI seeks public input by July 20, 2017. I am in favor of developing new, modern mining operations in the United States, whether on public or private lands, and this includes the Project, owned and proposed by Midas Gold Inc. (MGI). I request that USFS consider my support, as a citizen and resident of the State of Idaho, of the Project as described in the Plan of Restoration and Operations submitted by MGI.

The Project presents some unique opportunities to society in comparison to other mining projects. Similar to others on public lands, the Stibnite Gold Project will add jobs and revenue to the region, state and country through responsible, modern-day mining methods. These benefits, alone, are worth developing as envisioned under law and regulations, such as the General Mining Law. Secondly, and where the Project differs from many others, is the opportunity it presents to improve the current physical environment to a more sustainable and productive state.

The area around the Project has seen several mining ventures over the last century, the effects of which are clearly evident in the area today. Though the historic activities were no doubt permitted and conducted within the regulatory guidance and accepted best practices at the time, I suspect none were conducted with the planning and consideration for the environmental and socio-economic conditions as the Project proposed by MGI. Moreover, none of the historic activities had the opportunity to build a new mine encompassing the entire mineral deposit. It is a very special, and uncommon, opportunity to be able to consider the full geologic potential of a mineral deposit unfettered by land or legal conditions and this characteristic allows MGI to consider how to do things in a more holistic approach in consideration of the mineral deposit, the land and the community.

The planning conducted by MGI was not performed in isolation, rather it took into consideration the results of much scientific study as well as the views of the local and state residents and the various state and federal agencies tasked with promoting responsible development of public lands. It is because of this collaboration and the

desire to do things better and, as a result, to clean up legacy mining issues, that I support the Project.

The first time I visited the Project, in the late 1990's while reviewing the site as a potential mining opportunity for my employer at the time, I was immediately struck by how haphazard past mining had been. My thought then was that a single, modern effort could not only develop the full potential of this prospective geologic setting but could do so in a way that would correct legacy conditions left by disparate and disconnected prior activities. I still believe my initial thoughts today and encourage you to select the proposed activities 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.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Birak



Birk
2142 E. Sandborn Dr.
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Payette National Forest

Mr. Keith Lannon

500 N. Mission St.

McCald, ID 83638

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SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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