

From: Leta Collord
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Stibnite Gold Project
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 10:38:32 PM

Via email

Att: Keith Lannom, Payette Forest Supervisor

I am submitting these comments regarding Midas Gold Idaho's plan of operations for the Stibnite Gold Project in Valley County, Idaho. I have a particular interest in the area as I was born in Stibnite during WWII as my parents worked at the mine for Bradley Mining Company. My 40+ year professional career has been in mining – exploration, major mine management, permitting, reclamation and closure. Most of this time was in the large gold mines in Nevada, and exploration and development in Idaho.

I am supportive of the project and would like to see Stibnite come “back to life” once again. I offer the following narrative and comments:

- 1) I support the Project because it a major deposit of the strategic metals antimony and tungsten. These have been and remain essential elements of our civilization, including defense. (Note that Stibnite provided the large percentage of tungsten and antimony during the War and was essentially a government-supported mine.) Gold is a byproduct of Stibnite, but an important one for Midas.
- 2) It is important that the construction and operation provide constant access to the Thunder Mountain area as my family still has a private land operation below Lake Roosevelt. This access is also used by the public – hikers, hunters, fishermen, etc. – and this access was guaranteed in the agreement to sell the Thunder Mountain Mine property to the Trust for Public and Forest Service in 2005. I was president of Thunder Mountain Gold at the time and fostered this sale.
- 3) It is key to long term stability of the site is that the hydrology of the be well understood and evaluated. This includes detailed ground water transmissivity studies, waste rock characterization and pit lake analyses for future water quality. I have always been leery of backfilling a pit with waste rock where this may be water flow through the backfill. (I understand that they are proposing a tunnel bypass for the EFSF, but groundwater input needs to be evaluated.)
- 4) I would encourage the agencies and NGOs work with Midas to move ahead with a land exchange. The patented land package a Stibnite limits Midas' flexibility for mining and reclamation. This can be a win-win as the agency would get favorable land packages while freeing up Mida's operation. There should be a way that this can be done in conjunction with the permitting and fast-tracked to the extent possible.

In closing, I would like to offer praise to the Midas Team for their work with the community and agencies. They have done a job that will help develop confidence in the proposed Project.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input on the Project.

Jim Collord