

From: Scott Freeman
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Stibnite Gold EIS Scoping Comment
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 2:58:45 PM
Attachments: [Comment Letter Midas EIS.pdf](#)

Thank you,

Scott Freeman, Estimator





P.O. Box 1569
Cascade, ID 83611

July 11, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Lannom

Subject: Stibnite Gold EIS Scoping Comment

The Staff at O-K Gravel Works, LLC fully supports what Midas Gold is working to accomplish at the historic Stibnite Mine Site. Midas Gold has provided a much-appreciated source of revenue to the companies of this County for several years now. Midas Gold has stayed the course jumping through many hoops and has not given up even though they have faced resistance around every corner from the environmental elite. O-K Gravel Works, LLC has performed some work and supplied some aggregate materials to Midas in the past. Valley County needs a "Goods" industry to bolster its economic needs. Valley County needs more jobs. Midas is mindful of environmental concerns and needs.

There is not a strong "Goods" producing Industry Presence in Valley County at this time. The Logging/Lumber industry is a mere shadow of its former presence and the economic condition of this County has suffered because of it. Construction is the primary industry at this time, but it is a "service" industry. Midas Gold's project in Stibnite will provide Valley County a much needed "Good" producing industry

Valley County is in desperate need of higher paying jobs, the current cost of living is prohibitive to a good portion of the local residents. Creating more jobs will build up the economy as more people are earning more money more people will be spending more money. More people spending more money will create more jobs and more businesses. There will be a greater need for goods and services in Yellowpine, New Meadows, McCall, Lakefork, Donnelly, and Cascade.

Midas has proven to be environmentally conscientious with how they have handled their processes so far, going above and beyond to ensure minimize any "mishaps". They placed "spill-kits" every so many miles to allow for quick reaction time if there was a problem. From the conversations we have had with Midas representatives they are planning to further minimize environmental impact by utilizing cleaner/safer separation/purification processes than historically used in that area. The mined material will be processed on-site creating a reduction in the volume of material transported off-site. This will drastically reduce the number of trips in and out of the backcountry. This is a big deal considering the river and the road system. Less trips reduces the chances of accidents, wear and tear on the roads, and the possibility of pollution into the river. It also leaves most of the mined material on-site for reclamation when it is time.

I am impressed that they have a plan to re-habilitate the area that was pillaged by previous miners. The times have changed the expectations of how a mine is run and what it should look like when it is finished. There must be some value to be had up there in order for the project to be able to afford to clean up the previous entire site. Heavy equipment is very costly to run per hour, the cost to reclaim the previously mined areas has to be very great. I would think that the Forest Service, ICL, and tribes would be excited to have some one wanting to foot the bill to restore/stabilize this area.



Please issue Midas the necessary permits to allow them to get to work and lets get the economy rolling in Valley County again.

Sincerely,

Scott Freeman, Estimator