

From: [Rick Richins](#)
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Comments to Midas Gold PRO proposal
Date: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:42:05 AM

To: Payette National Forest Supervisor:

Dear Mr. Lannon:

I am writing this letter in support of the Midas PRO. Specific comments to be included in the scoping process are included below.

By way of my background, I have a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree and 40 years of experience in environmental planning and engineering, permitting and designing large and small mining projects in the western U.S., Alaska and world- wide. In that capacity I have developed, reviewed and critiqued numerous operating and reclamation plans. This included previous plans for developing projects at Stibnite and Thunder Mountain in the PNF.

I have reviewed the Midas PRO in detail. I find it very thorough, and far-reaching in its general goal of restoration and final reclamation of a historically disturbed, " environmentally challenged "watershed, at the same time economically developing an important mineral resource of gold and antimony. I would stress the strategic importance of the antimony resource to the U.S.

This PRO is far ahead of its time, showing the way for future projects to produce and protect. The project, if implemented as planned in the PRO, would also serve to clean up an existing environmental problem in a very sensitive drainage many years ahead of any existing cleanup program, thus preserving an even enhancing the water quality and fisheries resources in the area. This plan is a great opportunity to accomplish an important goal now, as opposed to decades in the future. We must take advantage of this important objective at this time.

Another important aspect of this project is jobs, both local and area-wide. This employment is projected (Midas Socioeconomics Baseline Study, 2015) to create in the neighborhood of 150 local jobs; 250 regional jobs; and 500 high paying Idaho jobs. This should be a key aspect of the EIS prepared by the USFS.

Finally, I assume that the EIS will analyze the impacts, both positive and adverse, of the entire project. This would include the new road need for access, associated bridges and stream crossings and related effects and benefits; the power line alignment and its associated impacts and benefits; the total project including not only the mining proposal but also the reclamation/ restoration components; and the necessary monitoring requirements.

In closing, I would hope that the USFS gives this proposal an unbiased examination. This is an obvious "environmental opportunity" to clean up the Stibnite site using the best modern day equipment and technology as part of carefully designed plan of restoration and operating plan, and not at the taxpayers expense. This is clearly a environmentally sound

private enterprise plan with significant public benefits for the State of Idaho.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully, Rick Richins

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