

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

As a career miner that has worked around the country and world, I believe in the statement Midas Gold has made below and would like to also add... I have studied mining history and as with many people agree there have been environmental mistakes made in the past, but now look at what a mining company like Midas Gold has to offer. The promising future of gold prices coupled with an agreement between The U.S. Forest Service and Midas Gold Company could lead other mining companies to look at these areas that are in need of cleanup. It is a complete win/win for the U.S Forest Service, mining companies, environmentalists, local workers, outdoor enthusiasts and the many species of wildlife that will benefit from Midas Gold's commitment. Also, the company is taking on a financial responsibility that will relieve the taxpayer of the burden if this is a listed cleanup site. It is my opinion the Forest Service should look to seize this opportunity to set a uniting example and the sooner the better. Kudos to Midas Gold, I hope that other mining companies follow this example and hope the U.S. Forest Service can find it with their duties to help Midas Gold accomplish their goal. The workers, the wildlife and the environment stand to gain so much, I can't say enough in support. Thank you, Joseph M. Ondreako

It is with great pleasure that I write to the U.S. Forest Service to encourage you to permit the proposed activities outlined by Midas Gold in the Plan of Restoration and Operations during this public input process.

Midas Gold Idaho believes in a local workforce and has promised to hire Idahoans whenever possible. The company will provide employees with training and help our state build a more skilled workforce. These jobs are not entry level positions and the skills are valuable in other industries outside of mining. Midas Gold estimates salaries will be two times higher than the local average in Valley County and, during operations, annual pay roll is expected to range \$48 to \$51 million. On the high end, the company may also provide 600 indirect jobs during operations. This can make a big difference in the life of many families. Alternative 2 of the project can also make a big difference for the environment. Midas Gold will reprocess legacy materials in order to prevent them from leaching arsenic and antimony into the ground and surface water. The analysis in the DEIS (4.9-17) shows this will make further water degradation from these sources less likely in the future. Plus, under that same alternative, Midas Gold decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8) "making our roads safer."

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge you to now move forward and permit the mine using alternative 2 so Midas Gold can put Americans back to work.

Respectfully, Joseph M. Ondreako

Name: joe ondreako