

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Midas Gold Idaho's Plan of Restoration and Operations. Over the last several years, I've had the opportunity to hear a handful of presentations on the Stibnite Gold Project, sit down with project staff and observe how the company has lived out its mission as it has grown. It is with this knowledge that I encourage you to permit the Stibnite Gold Project.

One of the biggest challenges facing Idaho is having a trained workforce. Midas Gold not only plans to hire hundreds of Idahoans but the company will provide employees with training to build a more skilled workforce in Idaho. We applaud Midas Gold's commitment to helping Idahoans get valuable training that may not otherwise be available. This commitment by the company will help benefit Idaho families and allow Idaho to attract new businesses in the future. To date, Midas Gold has spent over \$89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors. If the project moves forward, the company will also invest heavily in environmental restoration, especially under alternative 2. During operations, Midas Gold will treat water to lower levels of arsenic, antimony and mercury in the river. This investment will cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). The company will also be able to increase productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations of chinook, bull trout and steelhead by opening up long-term access to blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-33).

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.

Warm regards,

Mike Wessela

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