

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the Draft EIS period for the Stibnite Gold Project.

The Stibnite Gold Project will help to restore the environment in our region. Under alternative two, Midas Gold has prioritized restoration work so many of the efforts occur early in the project. For example, Midas Gold will build a fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit to provide access to native upstream habitat. The U.S. Forest Service's analysis in the DEIS (4.12-39) shows this could increase and improve overall productivity and even diversity among chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. The company is also required to set aside all of the funds needed to properly restore the site in a special trust so the land will be restored no matter what happens to the company. Reclamation efforts have already started at the site. Midas Gold has planted thousands of trees and worked to reduce sediment entering waterways near the site. To me, these actions prove the company is truly committed to restoring the site.

The Stibnite Gold Project will provide stable, well-paying jobs to up to 1,000 employees throughout the life of the project. On average, employees will make \$80,000 per year – twice as much as the average salary in Valley County. Overall, the company estimates the annual payroll will be approximately \$42 million per year.

Midas Gold Idaho will have a huge impact on the economy through the jobs it provides, the money it spends and taxes it will pay. It is estimated Midas Gold will pay \$329 million in federal corporate income taxes and \$86 Million in state corporate income and mine license taxes.

Third-party analysis estimates for every job created by the Stibnite Gold Project, another indirect job would be created in the community. This trickledown effect will have a positive impact for working Idahoans and the economy.

The Stibnite Gold Project will be a major producer of gold and antimony. Today, we import almost all of our antimony from China. The U.S. government recently named antimony to its list of critical minerals because of its importance in the national defense and aerospace industries. The Stibnite Gold Project would be the only source of primary antimony production in the country.

Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. Midas Gold has a plan to fix these problems during construction. Unfortunately, if Midas Gold isn't allowed to move forward with its plan, it is highly unlikely these critical improvements will ever happen.

Fish haven't been able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds for 80 years. Midas Gold will reconnect fish during construction by building a special passage and by the

time the project is done they will restore the natural flow of the river so fish are permanently reconnected.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the alternative two presented by Midas Gold, as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully,

David Bracht

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