

Greetings,

Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project presents Idaho, particularly rural Idaho, with a huge economic and environmental opportunity. I am writing to encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible.

Restoring the Stibnite Gold Project site will be an incredible investment. Work clearly needs to be done in the area but it should not be funded through taxpayer dollars. Fortunately, Midas Gold Idaho wants to make the investment. The company is proposing a mining project and full-scale restoration project. They have plans to reconnect fish with their natural spawning grounds, properly reprocess and safely store old tailings and solve sedimentation issues. After reviewing the DEIS, I believe Alternative 2 is the best option for Idaho. The project footprint in Alternative 2 is smaller than Alternative 1 and reduces the project's impact on the environment. Under Alternative 3, the proposed location of the tailings storage facility would increase surface disturbances at the site and it would leave the existing spent ore disposal area on the site as it is today, so the potential ground and surface water benefits wouldn't be recognized. Alternative 4 would delay operations by two years, allowing the site to deteriorate longer than necessary. Finally, I have a hard time understanding why Alternative 5 is even considered an option, since it would leave the site unchanged. Obviously, the site needs attention. Midas Gold is willing to invest in the environmental repair. We should let them.

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.

The Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site and in desperate need of repair. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but their work didn't go far enough.

This project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit alternative 2 so this brownfield site can finally be restored.

Thanks for your Consideration,

Juan Alvarez

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