

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I am writing to express my views on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the Stibnite Gold Project is compelling for many reasons and it is a project I am committed to seeing come to fruition.

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. According to analysis by the U.S. Forest Service in section 4.2 of the DEIS, establishing long-term access to historically blocked critical habitat would result in increased productivity for Idaho's bull trout, chinook and steelhead. This free movement and access to habitat can improve genetic diversity of the fish. Midas Gold will also properly reprocess and safely store old tailings, which, as outlined in Chapter 4 section 4.9 of the DEIS, will lead to a long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water. The company will also solve sedimentation issues by repairing Blowout Creek. I see this project as a potentially very beneficial project for Valley County and all of Idaho as well!

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, following alternative 2.

Best Wishes,

Mike Waite

Name: Michael P. Waite