

Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project and considering my thoughts on this project. I have reviewed Midas Gold's plan laid out in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and I believe the Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity to repair the environment and bring an economic boost to the community.

As proposed, the project finances environmental reclamation and provides the workforce and resources necessary to complete it. If Midas Gold isn't allowed to move forward with its plan, this area in Idaho's backcountry will continue to suffer. Currently, salmon are being blocked from their native spawning grounds and hundreds of tons of sediment are pouring into the watershed each year. It is time to address these issues and Midas Gold has the right plan to do it.

According to the DEIS their plans will effectively help the environment up at site through Alternative 2. For example, by committing to reprocessing and repurposing millions of tons of spent ore and unconstrained tailings, Midas Gold will safeguard water quality indefinitely. For example, in the DEIS chapter 4, section 4.9, "removing legacy tailings and managing water quality provides long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water."

Midas Gold Idaho is proposing a great project for Idaho's economy, citizens and environment. When the project goes into production, the company plans to invest \$1 billion in Idaho and provide approximately 1,000 jobs over the course of the mine's life. Midas Gold has made a commitment to look to Idaho first for talent and supplies which will have a major trickledown effect and positively impact many facets of the state's economy. This is the type of project our state needs.

Additionally, Midas Gold's strong commitment to hiring locally and using local vendors and suppliers helps build our economic base. The salaries of the positions at the Stibnite Gold Project will be approximately two times higher than typical jobs in Valley County. The financial security and on-the-job training opportunities these positions bring has the potential to bring meaningful change to families throughout the region. Lastly, mining brings more than jobs and robust wages to our state, it promotes the development of secondary businesses and the production of more goods and materials right here in Idaho.

After reviewing Midas Gold's plans it is clear to me that the company really believes in taking care of the environment and keeping the community safe. I urge you to permit the Stibnite Gold Project through Alternative 2 and keep this project moving forward.

Best regards,

