

Dear Payette National Forest Supervisor,

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

The Stibnite Gold Project will generate significant federal, state and local taxes over the life of the project. Estimate show the company will contribute \$86 million in state taxes over two decades. According to a study conducted in 2017, compensation on the Stibnite Gold Project would average approximately \$80,000 a year based on comparable operations in Idaho, as compared to \$35,000 in the area surrounding the project currently. The economic benefits tied in with the environmental restoration of the site provide a win-win for the citizens who live in the surrounding communities, the state and the general population. For example, when fish are reconnected to habitat upstream, 4.12-39 of the DEIS shows this long-term access will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Midas Gold Idaho's project as outlined in their Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations, alternative 2 in the DEIS. The USFS has already extended the comment period once, there should be no further delays.

Warm regards,

Vicki Packer, President

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