

Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor  
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I am a strong advocate for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project and I believe it has incredible potential for the state's economy. COVID-19 has been, and continues to wreak havoc on economies across the world, including the Valley County economy. We are a strong community that supports each other, and having been supporting each other for generations, but now we must invest in our community in order to ensure that we can stand against potential economic hardship.

Idaho ranks among the lowest in the country for per capita income. More than that, a large part of the Valley County area work in hospitality. As the pandemic halted travel and closed up businesses, our low per capita income was not a data talking point, it was a harsh reality. We feel our low wages and pinched pockets daily. That is where the Stibnite Gold project comes in.

Over the roughly 20 year duration of the Stibnite Gold Project, which includes construction, operations and closure, and based on the 2017 best available data, a comprehensive study estimated \$150.9 million in state and local tax revenues. This is tax revenue that can put spent and put back into the daily lives of our community members.

Specifically, schools, law enforcement and local governments would see \$300,000 annually from property taxes. This money would keep our kids better educated, our streets safer and our community a better place to live. Moreover, local impacts on the economy from Midas Gold's direct job creation are estimated at:

- \$18.1 million per year during construction,
- \$18.5 million per year during operations and
- \$3.6 million per year during reclamation.

These figures are why I am strongly encouraging the U.S. Forest Service to adopt alternative 2 laid out by Midas Gold in their modified proposal. Because at the end of the day the 'figures' Midas Gold are going to produce are much more than that. They are more meals on the table, more time with family and stronger community.

Sincerely,



Walter Beckman