

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the U.S. Forest Service's permitting process. This is an important project for Valley County and will have a significant impact on the community. As someone who explores, plays and cares about this region of Idaho's backcountry, I want to make sure the Stibnite Gold Project is done the right way.

The Stibnite Gold Project is good for the Idaho workforce. 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. During operations, annual payroll at site would range from \$48 million to \$51 million. The financial security and on-the-job training opportunities these positions bring has the potential to bring meaningful change to families throughout the region. Additionally, we know 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. The project is also a win for the environment. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9). This would be a huge improvement over conditions at site today, where arsenic and antimony levels in some places at site are 700 times higher than drinking standards.

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge you to now move forward and permit the mine using alternative 2 so Midas Gold can put Americans back to work.

Thanks Again,

Name: Philip StGeorge