

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


I am writing to express my strong support for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project.

If there were ever a mining project to approve, the Stibnite Gold Project would be it. Right now, valuable minerals are sitting unused beneath polluted land. Midas Gold has proposed to extract those minerals and restore sites that have been disturbed for decades, leaving Idahoans with better jobs and a cleaner environment.

The economic benefits of the Stibnite Gold Project are extensive. Besides creating 500 high paying jobs, the plan would produce an estimated \$150 million in sales transactions in the region. That money would allow small businesses to thrive, contributing to a cycle of economic growth.

Despite the opposition to Midas Gold's proposal, there is no better alternative. Doing nothing would be bad for our economy and our environment, and it is unlikely that any other company will step up with a more generous plan if the Stibnite Gold Project is rejected. We should not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Instead of driving away investment, Idaho should welcome large companies with strong environmental commitments.

The Stibnite Gold project is beneficial for everyone, and it would be a mistake to prevent or further delay it. I hope that the U.S. Forest Service will adopt alternative 2 proposed in the USFS Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you for reading my letter.



JONATHAN C. MCGOVERN