



House of Representatives State of Idaho

September 18, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I am writing today in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project under consideration in the U.S. Forest Service's recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If approved, this project would have a profound positive impact on Idaho's economy and the environment.

Seeing this project move forward would result in an economic windfall for Idaho. Midas Gold not only plans to hire upward of 1,000 workers, but the company has committed to look at the workforce here in Idaho to fill those jobs first. This would bring mining jobs back to Idaho and put unemployed people to work. Furthermore, this project is expected to result in a nearly \$1 billion investment. According to analysis done by Highland Economics, the project would generate nearly \$151 million in tax revenue for the state. That money would go towards our schools, local governments, and even law enforcement.

In addition to the numerous economic reasons, I support this proposal because Midas Gold Idaho is bringing a realistic and fully funded plan to rehabilitate the Stibnite site after years of neglect. Stibnite has been an abandoned eyesore that has wreaked havoc on the surrounding ecosystem, causing erosion and closing up fish passages in the Salmon River. Midas Gold Idaho has pledged to clean up Stibnite and leave it in better condition than when they started. This project will help restore the site and the ecosystem and help bring the salmon back to the Salmon River.

It is my hope that we can responsibly move forward with Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite God Project. Therefore, please adopt Alternative 2 outlined in the draft EIS. This is the right choice for our state, our environment and our people.

Sincerely,

Jason Monks
Idaho State Representative, District 22
Assistant Majority Leader