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Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor

Stibnite Gold Project

500 N. Mission St. Building 2, McCall, Idaho 83638

Via electronic mail to <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=50516>

RE: Comment: Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

--Support Alternative 2

--No Need to extend Comment Period

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I am writing to support Alternative 2 identified in the DEIS and to request that you adhere to the current schedule for comment.

I am a fourth-generation Idahoan. I have fond childhood memories of family camping trips on the South Fork of the Salmon River and Johnson Creek. My father, brothers and I frequently hiked into Riordan Lake for camping and fishing.

I would not support any activity if I thought it posed a substantial risk to this treasured area. Appendix D of the DEIS identifies more than 150 mitigation measures being considered to ensure that undesirable impacts are reduced or prevented. When combined with the financial assurances Midas is proposing to eliminate a “walk-away” risk along with your continued oversight during the life of the project I am confident that the future this region of central Idaho is in good hands.

In my adult years I served for eight years in the administration of Governor Cecil D. Andrus. Both as governor and as Secretary of the Interior he was a champion of environmental and recreational protection. He, though, often said, “If you don’t have a good job you can’t enjoy the outdoors.” This was, I think, his shorthand way of saying that economic prosperity and a good environment do not have to be at odds with each other. (By invoking his name, I do not intent to

say what his thoughts on this project might have been, only to point to a broader way of thinking).

As you work toward preparation of the Final EIS I am respectfully requesting that you consider the economic benefits SGP intends to achieve as a component of the project's Purpose and Need Statement. Some of these benefits are detailed in *Midas Gold Idaho, Plan of Operation (PRO Chapter 3)*, (https://www.midasgoldcorp.com/site/assets/files/2098/pro-presentation_ch3.pdf). They include:

- During construction direct employment of 600 to 700 people with annual payroll ranging from \$42 million to \$49 million with average annual wages of \$70,000(+/-).
- During Operations direct employment of 500 to 600 direct jobs with annual payroll ranging from \$48 million to \$51 million with average annual wages of \$80,000(+/-).
- Approximately nine indirect jobs created for every ten direct jobs.
- Payment of direct Federal and State taxes of \$415 million.

While these numbers are forward looking projections, even if they are off by a wide margin of error, the economic benefits are, by any measure, substantial.

These economic betterments are consistent with the plans and policies of the State of Idaho. *See*: <https://commerce.idaho.gov/content/uploads/2017/03/Idaho-Commerce-Dept-Overview-One-Sheet-2019.pdf> . Accordingly, they could appropriately be recognized in the Final EIS Statement of Purpose and Need.

I have read many letters to editors and publications from groups who are skeptical of SGP including the Idaho Conservation League and others. They are long on hyperbole, doomsday predictions and fundraising appeal but short on recognition of economic benefits to the Central Idaho region and the state.

Thank you also for creating the helpful online public meeting room and virtual public meeting at: <https://stibnite.consultation.ai> . It was helpful to me in preparing this comment. Considering your innovative public involvement effort in these unusual times there is not a need to extend the already generous public comment period. I suspect those who are calling for an extended comment period have already hardened their hearts against SGP and no amount of additional time would change their mind or sharpen their analysis. Delay is their friend.

For these reasons, please proceed along the current comment schedule and adopt Alternative 2.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dean J. Miller

