

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

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho.

The future of central Idaho is growing increasingly uncertain. Ever since mining left Stibnite in the 1990s, no industry has stepped up to guarantee similarly stable jobs. Today, residents of Valley County largely depend on tourism and retail for employment. In the midst of a global pandemic and with a possible recession looming, it is likely that many will soon find themselves out of work. To help mitigate future crises, it is crucial that we encourage the return of permanent industries. Approving the Stibnite Gold Project and their preferred Alternative 2 is a perfect way to do so.

Midas Gold's proposal would immediately inject \$1 billion into our economy and would provide jobs for more than 500 people. The success of their project would encourage other companies to develop similar proposals, creating the possibility of compounding economic stimulus for decades. It would be difficult to overstate just how transformative that process could be for our communities.

Valley County is not a wealthy area, and many others share my concerns about our local economy. Midas Gold is offering a lifeline that might make all the difference between a difficult future and a prosperous one.

In addition to economic stimulus from this project's investment, our environment will also benefit from Midas Gold's investment. According to findings from the draft environmental impact statement, Alternative 2 will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water by reprocessing historic tailings (DEIS 4.9) and provide a net gain of 9.3 km of accessible, potential habitat for salmon (Table 4.12-29).

I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 for the Stibnite Gold Project and let Midas Gold Idaho move ahead with their project.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.