

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project. I moved to Idaho in 1981 and worked 38 years for Micron Technology as employee #25. I was able to grow as an engineer and contribute to a very successful company. My wife and I raised 3 children that have all stayed in Idaho and now have 3 grandchildren. We love Idaho, the open public lands and most of all the hard work values this state has.

Value Add jobs are critical to any economy. This includes mining, timber, farming and manufacturing.

If the Stibnite Gold Project goes into production, Idaho would see a huge economic benefit. Midas Gold plans to invest \$1 billion in the state, contribute \$86 million in state and local taxes and make improvements to roads and power grid near the site. The company has also made a pledge to hire locally whenever possible and plans to provide around 1,000 jobs for Idahoans throughout the life of the project. Midas Gold salaries will be approximately two times higher than the local salary. It is impossible to ignore the positive trickle-down effect an investment of this size would have on our community and economy.

In the day-long tour I took with Midas Gold hosting Boise City Club Members, I was very impressed with their engineering plans and commitment to the environment. Any value-add endeavor uses and changes the environment. Their vision of getting out valuable resources and protecting the fish movement with a tunnel was inspiring to me.

The waste storage and restoration plan will change the land considerably, mostly for the better I believe. I was made to understand the risk of virgin brown trout habitat being destroyed. Also a risk of more waste and arsenic contamination downstream if anything goes wrong. As regulators you have to weigh the gain vs. risk.

I appreciate your time and thoughtfulness. The USFS has provided plenty of tools to review the DEIS and make commenting within the 60-day timeframe possible. For the reasons I stated in my letter above, please permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative 2 and let Idahoans see the benefits of this important project.

Best Wishes,

Name: gordon haller