



## City of Donnelly

September 21, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Jackson:

The Donnelly City Council and I want you to know that we support the Stibnite Gold Project and Midas Gold's efforts to restore the old Stibnite mining area and to mine gold and antimony. We want you to know we support Alternative 2.

We are a small community that is proud to host Midas Gold. We believe Midas' approach to the Stibnite Gold Project is a standard for other large businesses to use as they communicate with their community. Of special note, we find the Stibnite Advisory Council a resource that suits our needs. Simply stated, Midas Gold has been a valued partner and we look forward to a long and prosperous relationship.

We support Alternative 2 as the most practical approach and one that will be best for Donnelly and the other communities impacted by the Stibnite Gold Project. Alternative 2 basically improves on Alternative 1 – it is an updated and modified plan. Alternative 3 places the Tailings Storage Facility in reach of the East Fork South Fork Salmon river, Alternative 4 contains significant transportation and road issues, and Alternative 5 is to do nothing, leaving the area the mess that it is in today.

As with many of the respondents to the DEIS, we support the Stibnite Gold Project for multiple reasons but want to focus on two major points – the ecological considerations and the economy. However, we believe that Midas Gold's efforts to improve and begin cleaning up the mess that exists at Stibnite now is important to highlight. Its restorations efforts will enhance the quality of water and improve the area from a conservational perspective. Even *The Star News* has mentioned the potential for improved water quality.

### **Environmental Ecology and Conservation**

Alternative 2 identifies significant water enhancements. An important point is that Alternative 2 has specific actions that will improve the overall ecological standing and that has a trickle-down effect that will improve water quality, limit or mitigate the potential for toxicants, and

mitigations to tailings that impact water. Also, the fish tunnel although not a water quality issue is an enhancement that will be beneficial for the South Fork Salmon spawning bed and passage issues will be greatly improved and restore salmon population.

**Economic**

Beyond the conservational enhancement, the economic improvements that Midas Gold will make available will be significantly import to Valley County. It is projected that Midas Gold will bring over 1,000 jobs throughout the life of the project. The trickle-down effect may include another 1,000 jobs. The importance of the Midas 1,000 jobs is huge. These will be well paying jobs providing salaries and benefits that will exceed \$80,000 per year. Midas is committing to conduct training that will help ensure the jobs will be available to local residents. Additionally, the impact to our tax base will further help our communities.

Both the environmental improvements and the enhanced economic opportunities are issues the residents of Donnelly have long awaited. The leadership and residents of Donnelly strongly support the Stibnite Gold Project for the two primary reasons provided. There are numerous other reasons, but our constituents believe these are the strongest reasons for our community.

Respectfully,



Susan Dorris  
Mayor