



House of Representatives State of Idaho

October 1, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

As a long time Idaho Representative, I have dedicated my life to making Idaho a great place to live. Following review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), I believe the Midas Gold Stibnite Project will help to achieve that goal of promoting a prosperous Idaho and I am confident that the project would positively impact hundreds of Idahoans.

Midas is planning a \$1 billion investment in Idaho. They intend to hire upward of 1,000 employees and have a yearly payroll of \$34 million. This money will provide our communities and families with much needed economic opportunities – that's more money to be spent in local stores, restaurants, and on housing. An independent study of the economic impacts from this project found that during the construction phase the direct impact on the economy would amount to \$18 million a year. This money has the potential to change the lives of thousands of Idahoans.

Midas will not only be a capital investment in Idaho, they have designed a plan that ensures the company is a good steward of the environment which is important for me as a member of the House Resources Committee. The majority of mining that previously occurred in the Stibnite area took place long before reclamation provisions were mandated, leaving the area afflicted by deforestation and accelerated erosion. Midas has committed to repairing the damage, as outlined in their Plan of Restoration and Operations, and have promised to leave the land in a better condition than it is currently.

Given its merits, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with Alternative 2 outlined and examined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Idaho should move forward with this much needed project.

I hope you will consider my comments during the review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Wood".

Fred Wood
Idaho State Representative
District 27, Seat B