

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

The U.S. Forest Service's online meeting room has made it easy to review the document and comment within the 60-day timeframe. Looking at the document, there is a clear advantage to Alternative 2 compared to the other options. According to a figure in Chapter 4, Hanger Flats pit lake would fill by year 14 of operations in Alternative 2. Under Alternative 1, it would take 19 years. The faster the lake fills up, the faster groundwater levels will recover around the lake. Alternative 3 and 4 would both delay the project by two years and cost substantially more. Alternative 3 would also place the tailings storage facility in a pristine reach of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. While Alternative 4 would put mine traffic to site right next to the river.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the proposed plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider and appropriately weigh the positive benefits Midas Gold will have on Idaho. We need to move this project ahead after the 60-day comment period. Alternative Two truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment. At these trying times for our country a timely issuance of all of the necessary permissions to allow the Midas Gold company finally starting its productive work is very important. This provides additional jobs for different specialties and qualifications: miners, drivers, welders, device operators, carpenters, technicians, engineers, geologists, etc., etc. for Idaho residents. After extraction and selling minerals it will produce additional tax money for the local and state government. The Stibnite Gold Project has plenty of mineral resources and "Midas Gold" which is a very promising mining company under excellent and highly experienced management will be producing substantial wealth for our lovely country during many years to come!

Regards, Arkady Kvitko.

Name: Arkady (Alex) Kvitko