

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the public permitting process. I know this project will have a positive impact on the environment, communities surrounding the site and Idahoans.

The Stibnite Gold Project will generate significant federal, state and local taxes over the life of the project. Estimate show the company will contribute \$86 million in state taxes over two decades. The economic benefits tied in with the environmental restoration of the site provide a win-win for the citizens who live in the surrounding communities, the state and the general population.

I am impressed with Midas Gold's current dedication to repairing legacy environmental issues at the site from mining activity that took place on and off for more than 100 years. This is a major investment. Government agencies would not have the budget to perform all the necessarily reclamation work. This private-public partnership will solve environmental issues while providing the area with a significant economic boost.

As proposed, the project finances environmental reclamation and provides the workforce and resources necessary to complete it. If Midas Gold isn't allowed to move forward with its plan, this area in Idaho's backcountry will continue to suffer. Currently, salmon are being blocked from their native spawning grounds and hundreds of tons of sediment are pouring into the watershed each year. It is time to address these issues and Midas Gold has the right plan to do it.

Reviewing Midas Gold's plans it is clear to me the company really believes in taking care of the environment and keeping the community safe. After reading my letter, I hope you will support Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho.

Thanks for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.