

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

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

I am proud to submit my comments in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. This project presents our state with an incredible opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost our state's economy and use private investment to clean up a brownfield site.

The Stibnite Gold Project is a huge opportunity for Idaho and our country. While the site is rich in gold deposits it also has deposits of antimony – a mineral designated critical by the U.S. government. In fact, the Stibnite Gold Project is the largest known deposit of antimony in the country. We depend heavily on China for this mineral. Antimony is crucial to the defense and energy industries and is in many items we use on a daily basis, like our cell phones. Permitting the Stibnite Gold Project will allow us to have a domestic resource for this very important mineral.

Midas Gold has worked hard to find a way to make backcountry roads safe for everyone. Midas plans to bus employees to the site using Burntlog Road and have them stay there during their shifts. This seemingly small decision will greatly reduce the number of vehicles on the road and help prevent accidents.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. The U.S. Forest Service has provided Idahoans with meaningful tools to easily review the document and ample time to comment. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project following alternative two.

Thanks for your time,

Richard A. Battaglia