

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

U.S. Forest Supervisor:

The proposed Stibnite Gold Project would be a major win for Idaho workers, communities, and our entire economy. The U.S. Forest Service should not delay approval of this much-needed project any longer. Please adopt Alternative 2 of Midas Gold's proposal.

According to projections from the company, this project will directly employ hundreds of Idaho workers throughout its construction phase and hundreds more once it is fully operational. Indirectly, hundreds of more jobs would be supported in both phases as well as the activity around the site will spur economic growth in a range of sectors, from transportation to manufacturing to education to hospitality.

Midas Gold has committed to hiring, contracting with, and purchasing supplies from Idaho-based companies and workers whenever possible. To date, that means they've already spent more than \$69 million right here in Idaho. I believe they will stick to their word when it comes to creating the jobs our communities need now more than ever.

Add to all that the fact that they will be paying hundreds of millions of dollars in state and local taxes—which will go back into Idaho communities—and you have a pretty good deal for our state. As a matter of fact, your own Draft Environmental Impact Statement says in chapter four that the long-term productivity of the Stibnite area would be an economic benefit to Idaho. Alternative 2 also guarantees we'd see these economic benefits sooner than the other alternatives explored by the impact statement.

I cannot for the life of me understand why this project has not already been approved so we can begin creating jobs and boosting our economy. Please help this happen by adopting Alternative 2 and allowing the job growth to begin.

Respectfully,

Kristen Ransom
