

October 7, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

The Stibnite Gold Project is a direct investment in Idaho's economy. The company has pledged to hire employees directly from Idaho – when feasible – and will always look to use local vendors first throughout the project. This commitment would not only lead to the employment of as many as 1,000 local Idahoans, it will increase tax revenues across Idaho. Our local governments, schools, and law enforcement would see \$300,000 annually in property tax revenues from the project. The local impacts on the economy throughout the life of the project are estimated to be over \$18 million during construction, over \$18 million during operations, and \$5 million during final the reclamation stages.

Midas Gold Idaho has already invested more than \$45 million in the project since 2014, \$27 million of which went to Idaho businesses and employees. More than \$300,000 went to community programs, like parks and recycling efforts. During the course of the project, Midas Gold Idaho will invest \$1 billion in Idaho.

Midas Gold Idaho is committed to improving the Stibnite mining region, restoring the land to the way nature intended it to be. Considering the environmental degradation caused by previous mining activity, private investment is likely the only way we'll restore the beautiful lands and waterways in that region of the state. Barriers blocking water passages for salmon and steelhead fish will be removed and plans focusing on spawning habitat access will create long-term improvements to our environment.

After careful consideration, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve Alternative 2 laid out by Midas Gold in their proposal and allow the Stibnite Gold Project to move forward in the permitting process.

Sincerely,



Steve Harris

Idaho House of Representatives, District 21