

To Concerned Payette National Forest Staff,

I am writing to share my thoughts on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project. There are many reasons why I am excited for Midas Gold's project to come to life and I hope through my comments you will understand why.

The Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity to address high amounts of sedimentation and drainage of the wetlands that happened as a result of the dam failure at Blowout Creek in the 1960s. This has caused extensive, ongoing erosion for decades and the effects are concerning for fish habitat and water quality. Midas Gold intends to address these issues by repairing the damage and installing a French drain at the site of the old dam to permanently keep sediment out of the river and restore wetlands. According to the draft environmental impact statement, their plan for mitigation and restoration will help address this issue.

Also, the Stibnite Gold Project will provide stable, well-paying jobs to up to 1,000 employees throughout the life of the project. On average, employees will make \$80,000 per year – twice as much as the average salary in Valley County. Overall, the company estimates the annual payroll will be approximately \$42 million per year.

I would like to thank the U.S. Forest Service for providing the opportunity, and sufficient time, to comment on this important project's permitting process. I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits of this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using Alternative 2.

Best Wishes,

Name: Dr. Jacob Schimpf