

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

As a resident of Valley County, I am writing to you today in support of Midas Gold's plan that has been shared with the U.S. Forest Service for consideration. I strongly believe that Idaho must take advantage of opportunities when a partner like Midas comes along.

There is no way around the fact that an Idaho gold mine brings Idaho jobs. And in this instance, Midas has made a commitment that throughout its Stibnite Gold Project that they will prioritize hiring and using Valley County first. This will result in increased revenue for local Idaho businesses and give the opportunity for skilled workers to work at the Stibnite mine. Based on their own initial projections, Midas will need nearly 1,000 employees as it begins its project, delivering high-paying and stable jobs that will help raise Valley County workers into the middle class and put food on the table.

Idaho's overall employment level is relatively low but thousands of jobs created by Midas over the coming years will provide a significant boost to the overall economy. In addition to high-paying jobs, the amount of local taxes that would be collected from Midas total over \$300,000 per year. Valley County public schools, neighborhood protection, and infrastructure projects will all benefit from additional tax revenue.

In addition to economic improvements, Midas has pledged to begin cleaning up the mining site, which will have a direct effect on the water quality through the removal of specific tailings. With a decade of water studies, Midas will improve water quality and even restore the original East and South forks of the Salmon River. These clearing of these blocked passages will allow the local salmon population to return to their natural and historic spawning grounds. Midas Gold also realized that the region surrounding the project is a popular area for snowmobilers so they actively collaborated with local snowmobiling organizations to mitigate impact from their activities. Midas Gold designed Alternative 2 to increase safety and establish access routes to the site that keeps the public away from mining operations.

As the Stibnite Gold Project improves Valley County and saves the environment, I urge you to accept Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho in their Plan of Restoration and Operations.

Sincerely,

Lisa Byrd
