

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

At a time when millions of Americans are losing their jobs and the economic future of this country is the most unclear that it has ever been, it is critical that we support the creation of jobs here in Idaho. I am writing to you to ask for your support for the Stibnite Gold Project led by Midas Gold Idaho.

COVID-19 has created the most serious global public health and economic crisis in nearly a century. We will need every potential tool to combat a lasting economic depression. For Idaho, that means supporting businesses in any way possible that are willing and able to hire local residents. Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project will employ 500 local workers and will provide them with above average wages. This will provide a stimulus to the local economy and will provide optimism at a time when things are bleak.

The project also promises to help fill state and local budget gaps. States and local towns will be looking for any sources of revenue to provide basic services and benefits to the community. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide over \$500 million in taxes to these local entities. Regardless of the situation, we will need to find ways to pay first responders and other vital public employees such as teachers – this project will go a long way to help our local governments do just that.

Just as important to the economic benefits of this project, Midas Gold Idaho has pledged to take steps to not only practice environmentally safe techniques, but has also committed to restoring the region. This area has seen better days and if Midas Gold Idaho is willing to help improve conditions there, we should encourage that. More so, the company has worked to keep access to Idaho's backcountry open and kept safety a top priority in the design and operation of the proposed Stibnite Gold Project.

I encourage you to support Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho in their Plan of Restoration and Operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "E".

Lori Ellis