

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

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson:

Below, please find my comment on the open docket at the U.S. Forest Service for the proposal to redevelop and restore the Stibnite mine in Central Idaho. I believe that this project should be approved based on the environmental and economic benefits it will bring to this region and the entire state.

Under Alternative 2 in their proposal for the Stibnite Gold Project, the largely rural communities around the Stibnite mine will benefit greatly from the jobs and economic stimulus this project will provide. Midas Gold has made a commitment to hiring, contracting, and purchasing supplies locally whenever possible while also providing training opportunities for Idahoans throughout the life of the project, providing valuable workforce development opportunities.

The project itself will directly employ 600-700 people throughout the construction phase and roughly 500-600 people throughout the community during operations. These permanent jobs will range from management and laborers to electricians and engineers to environmental and safety experts. What's more, the downstream economic benefits will help support hundreds of more jobs indirectly during both phases of the project.

Times are tough for many Idaho communities, particularly the small towns and villages surrounding the Stibnite site. That is why the hundreds of millions of dollars that the Stibnite Gold Project will inject into Idaho's economy – as well as the state and local tax revenue it will generate – cannot be overlooked. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) says it best when it states that the long-term productivity of the Stibnite Gold Project area would be an economic benefit to Idaho.

The DEIS also indicates that Alternative 2 outlined by Midas Gold will help Idaho realize the economic benefits that come along with the project sooner than other approaches, particularly Alternatives 3 and 4. Of course, we'd see no economic benefits under Alternative 5 as that would essentially mean doing nothing at all.

I urge you to support the Stibnite Gold Project and approve Alternative 2, the preferred solution of Midas Gold and the most economically beneficial approach for Idaho.

Sincerely,


Dennis Higgins CL