



WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE.

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

GREETINGS,

As an employee of Western State CAT, I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

One of the biggest challenges facing Idaho is having a trained workforce. Midas Gold not only plans to hire hundreds of Idahoans but the company will provide employees with training to build a more skilled workforce in Idaho. We applaud Midas Gold's commitment to helping Idahoans get valuable training that may not otherwise be available. This commitment by the company will help benefit Idaho families and allow Idaho to attract new businesses in the future. To date, Midas Gold has spent over \$89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors, like Western State CAT. The economic impact the Stibnite Gold Project would have on our state cannot be overlooked.

If the project moves forward, the company will also invest heavily in environmental restoration, especially under alternative 2. During operations, Midas Gold will treat water to lower levels of arsenic, antimony and mercury in the river. This investment will cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). The company will also be able to increase productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations of chinook, bull trout and steelhead by opening up long-term access to blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-39).

Thank you for reviewing my comments. Again, I urge you to permit Midas Gold's carefully thought out plan as outlined under alternative 2. From what I see, alternative 2 is a win-win for everyone.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Swesey', written in a cursive style.

Mark Swesey