



Ms. Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
US Forest Service, Payette National Forest
500 N. Mission Street
McCall, ID 83683

October 14, 2020

Dear Ms. Jackson,

On behalf of Integra Resources, I am writing to express our support for the Midas Gold Stibnite Gold Project in Idaho and urge the U.S. Forest Service to move this opportunity forward by permitting the project as outlined in their Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations, alternative 2 in the DEIS.

To understand our enthusiasm for this project, one must understand Integra Resources and our passion for exploring, developing and mining for gold in Idaho. At Integra Resources, we have a dedicated focus on the modern and responsible exploration and development of the past producing DeLamar Gold-Silver Project in Idaho. We are the same team from Integra Gold who successfully transformed the shuttered Lamaque property, historically one of the largest gold mines in Quebec, Canada, into the Lamaque Project, a gold development opportunity acquired by Eldorado Gold in 2017. The Lamaque Mine went into commercial production in March 2019, employing hundreds of people and contributing hundreds of millions of dollars to the local economy under a company that puts sustainable practice front and foremost in all that it does.

We know how to bring fresh perspective to historical assets, unlock significant economic and social value and deliver a sustainable future. When we decided what to do next, we knew we wanted to be in Idaho, a state where mining is part of its deep rooted history. When we looked at the history of Idaho, we saw a state where mining shaped political boundaries, built cities and supplied – and continues to responsibly supply – the world with minerals necessary for everyday life. A place where people think about mining and acknowledge its essential role. A place where awesome natural beauty and logical sense co-exist. We are proud to operate in a state and country with some of the highest environmental standards in the world. Mining projects go through years of scientific evaluation and review. Concerned citizens have the opportunity to make their voices be heard, and those voices get listened to and taken seriously. This thorough and thoughtful process ensures only the best projects move forward, in the best interests of the community and with everything done right.

Within the context of these most robust environmental standards, the U.S. Forest Service and 10 other local, state and federal agencies have spent more than four years reviewing the Stibnite Gold Project. It is time to move this project forward, with no further delay. It is time to let Midas Gold, a dedicatedly responsible company, to deliver on its promise to restore Idaho lands after a century of unregulated



mining activity; to use modern, environmentally-conscious mining practices; and to drive Idaho's economy forward by providing high-paying, long-term jobs in America.

Because now is a time unlike no other. As stated by the [World Gold Council](#), *“COVID-19 created the perfect storm for gold investment as historic liquidity injections and record low interest rates significantly cut the cost of carrying gold. We witnessed a surge in gold price along with record inflows into gold-backed ETFs in the first half of the year... ongoing uncertainty and the threat of further waves of the pandemic mean that gold's safe haven status will appeal to investors for the foreseeable future.”*

The Stibnite Gold Project can contribute to gold's 'safe haven' status. The Project would produce more than four million ounces of gold. Yes, this domestic supply would bolster the United States' position as a gold producer, but it would also provide for direct oversight of environmental conditions and require only the most responsible mining practices. Gold is essential to the technologies that drive modern life from cellphones to pacemakers. Two of the three top gold producers, China and Russia, are countries with unstable trade relationships with the U.S. and have drastically lower environmental and labor standards for mining.

The Stibnite Gold Project can offer local jobs to local people. The Project is a \$1 billion investment in Idaho and the company will spend an additional \$2+ billion over the life of the Project. It is an opportunity to provide jobs at home, creating approximately 500 direct jobs with an average salary of \$80,000 during operations and a similar number of indirect jobs. In addition to employment and local spend, this Project will add \$200 million direct and \$500 million of indirect and induced state and federal taxes over the life of the Project.

The Stibnite Gold Project can contribute to the critical mineral supply chain and domestic security. The Project will be the only source of mined antimony in the United States, a listed critical mineral needed for important technological, industrial and defense applications and necessary for the country's domestic security and supply chain independence. The U.S. Department of Commerce lists antimony as one of 35 critical minerals. Today, China controls most of the world's supply.

The Stibnite Gold Project can be a leader in responsible mining. The answer to the growing demand for minerals and metals is socially and environmentally responsible mining. The tailings storage facility will be designed to meet or exceed the most stringent design factor-of-safety set forth in Idaho regulations. Restoring the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River is at the core of the Project design and provides a pathway for anadromous fish to reach historical spawning grounds within the first year of operations.

Midas Gold is transparent, forthcoming and ambitious about its environmental commitments:

- To Minimize disturbance to wildlife habitat by utilizing previously disturbed areas as much as possible for their operations.
- To utilize responsible night lighting to mitigate light pollution and minimize noise.
- To install a wildlife exclusion fence around the tailings storage facility, process facility areas and related process ponds to reduce potential risk to wildlife.
- To undertake reforestation and fish habitat enhancement across the site, not just project-impacted areas, in order to improve the overall quantity and quality of wildlife habitat.



Midas Gold can forge a new, net positive legacy for all. Today, harmful and harsh impacts from historic mining activities remain entrapped in Valley County. Tomorrow – with approval of the Stibnite Gold Project – a new, positive legacy of modern day, responsible mining will be forged. Water quality will be improved. Dynamic ecosystems will be sustainable, establishing natural habitat for our children’s children. Fish migration to spawning grounds will be restored, welcoming salmon back for the first time in 80 years.

We are pleased to join our friends, neighbors and associates across Idaho and offer our support for Stibnite. Mining done right can be driven by environmental stewardship, responsive to community priorities and a driver for economic and social prosperity. The environmental review process in Idaho and across the United States is modern mining done right. The Stibnite Gold Project is modern mining done right.

Sincerely,



George Salamis
President & C.E.O.

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