

To Concerned Payette National Forest Staff,

This letter is to express my support of Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project. Idaho, and America as a whole, needs this project to be permitted. I hope after reading my thoughts you will understand why my support for Midas Gold Idaho is so strong.

The "heart" of this project is in the restoration of the site, a mine that served the country well during the WW2 years and beyond, but it left behind significant destruction in the interest of rapidly securing valuable military materials for the war. Just the fact that their restoration work will renew a salmon migratory route that has been closed for 80-plus years is amazing to me... It seems to me there is good potential here to make this a model for how everybody should be operating; leave the site better than you found it.

This next stuff here is the company's form letter on various technicalities. But I'm supporting their efforts for the good it will do and the model it will present to not only the mining industry, but all industry. As I said above, leave the site better than you found it.

Alternative Two as proposed by Midas Gold is the best solution to protect important fish populations and the environment. It includes several updates from Alternative One that reduce impact to salmon habitat and increase environmental safeguards. Alternative Two will facilitate action as soon as possible. Unfortunately, Alternatives Three and Four would delay the project by two years, slowing down the environmental and economic benefits the Stibnite Gold Project promises to bring. Right now, with the ongoing crisis caused by the pandemic, we need to build a strong domestic supply chain and provide well-paying jobs for Idahoans. A delay in the project would have negative impacts to rural communities. While I know Alternative Five must be considered, we have come too far in this process to take no action at all in the historical Stibnite Mining District. If Midas Gold is not allowed to move forward with its project, the problems facing the region will likely only get worse.

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge you to now move forward and permit the mine using alternative 2, so Midas Gold can put Americans back to work.

Respectfully,

Name: Scott C Lees