



October 20, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson:

The city of Cascade, Idaho, has been somewhat involved with Midas Gold Idaho over the past decade as the company has laid the preliminary groundwork for its proposed Stibnite Gold Project. We are thankful for this opportunity to submit our comments on this project to the U.S. Forest Service.

At a population of roughly 1,000 people, our city is familiar with the benefits and challenges of natural resource work, especially as it is related to timber and mining. For generations, Cascade was built on and sustained by these industries. We have both prospered from the highs and felt the devastating impacts of the disappearance of industry jobs in our region. We have not had either industry for almost two decades; our businesses are left to the cyclical nature of a tourism based economy as our families struggle to keep the next generation anchored to Cascade.

Experience reminds us that it is important to have a voice in the process. Midas Gold has reached out and involved local communities like Cascade in their planning.

Cascade is the closest city to the Midas Gold project; a project that will have a direct impact on our residents that will be both positive and negative. This project has an opportunity to provide some much-needed economic stimulus during these uncertain times. Infrastructure of all types, including but not limited to housing that is affordable, water, sewer, and roads within the City will require a commitment in order to meet the increased demands resulting from this project. The City will look to Midas to help meet needs that our current tax base is unable to meet. In addition, growth impacts to the school, hospital and law enforcement will need to be considered.

It has been over 20 years since a major employer was located in or close to Cascade. The City has struggled to attract another entity that would be able to provide a living wage for families that reside in our city and the surrounding area.

According to estimates from Midas Gold and data reflected in the Payette Forest draft study, this project has the potential to create as many as 700 jobs during the construction phase and more than 200 local jobs throughout operations. Acknowledging that maybe half of those local

jobs would benefit existing, local residents with the other half would be moving into the area with their families. With the increase in short term rental properties, the City of Cascade has and will continue to experience a serious long term housing shortage that has already negatively impacted existing, local residents. An increase in population without a plan for more housing is a serious concern for our city. However, it is uncertain if those workers will live in a city other than Cascade.

We are told that during operations, these jobs would include management and administration as well as mechanics and engineers, surveyors, geologists, environmental specialists, and many others. Additionally, there would be hundreds of jobs indirectly supported by the project, including those to fill the new demand in transportation, the supply chain, as well as local community services like teachers, retail, and hospitality. That being said we look to Midas to step up and help us meet the challenges known and those challenges yet to be discovered. In addition, we look for help with solutions to mitigate the burden to local businesses affected by the loss of employees who become employed by Midas because of higher wages.

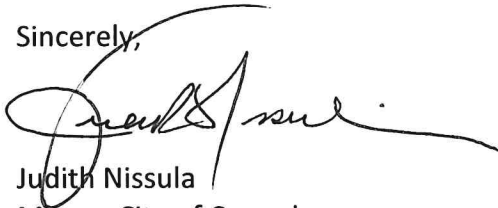
With the lifespan of this project being 12-15 years, we feel there should be a plan in place that assuages the effects of transitioning the local economy back to one of self-sustenance when the project has reached its lifespan.

A major employer can bring a sense of community ownership. We counted on the support of Boise Cascade's upper management as well as the local managers and employees. There was a sense of family whereby everyone was supportive of school, chamber and city activities. The logistic facility being ultimately located close to or in Cascade, could result in providing the regular Monday to Friday work week and help build a sense of community and family that has weakened over the years. Prior City Administration(s) had hoped that this would be located much closer if not within the City limits to help encourage the Midas employees to call Cascade their home. Given the current proposed location, company transportation coming out of the Treasure Valley would help reduce vehicle trips on Highway 55.

There may be additional impacts to the city airport as it primarily serves this back-country area.

We know there is a lot to consider when approving and permitting a project of this magnitude, it is our hope that Midas Gold will continue to work toward positive and meaningful solutions for all concerned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Nissula', written over a horizontal line.

Judith Nissula
Mayor, City of Cascade