



**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

Payette National Forest,  
As an employees of Western States CAT, I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, support many contractors and complementary industries, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

Midas Gold has committed to hiring, contracting, and purchasing supplies and services locally whenever possible. To date, the company has spent over \$89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors. With the economic uncertainty COVID-19 has brought to many communities, Idaho needs to attract new businesses and investment. The Stibnite Gold Project is coming at the perfect time.

The Stibnite Gold Project was designed to bring the area the environmental benefits it needs. Alternative 2 minimizes the footprint of the project and would help improve water quality and fish diversity. By law Midas Gold Idaho is required to set aside all of the money needed for restoration prior to any mining activity. This gives me, and Idahoans, peace of mind that the restoration work the company has discussed will come to fruition no matter what happens. If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with its work, salmon will be reconnected to their native spawning grounds. This hasn't happened in 80 years! Mining has devastated this area. Midas Gold Idaho wants to fix it and I hope you will clear the path to allow their restoration work to move forward.

I fully support Alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project and I hope regulators will move the project forward. There has been more than adequate time to review the DEIS and comment on the project.

Thanks for your Consideration,

John R Frei

John R Frei

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R Frei".