



October 26, 2020

Ms. Linda Jackson
Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

Re: Midas Gold Stibnite Gold Project

Dear Supervisor Jackson:

I write in support of Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project as presented in Alternative 2 or the modified Plan of Restoration and Operations. The modified plan represents extensive stakeholder outreach and incorporates broad input in developing a project plan that goes beyond applicable standards.

The proposed Stibnite Gold Project present a unique and perhaps the only viable way to accomplish long desired restoration of legacy environmental effects and improve fish habitat. The project embeds a modern mining approach to protect and enhance existing environmental conditions, generate significant local economic benefits and will provide needed minerals critical to our country's infrastructure, energy and national defense.

The modified Plan of Restoration and Operations includes, among other key elements:

- Backfilling the Yellow Pint mine pit which will allow the long-desired restoration of the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River across that backfill,
- Providing innovative fish migration structure that will provide access to historic spawning grounds for the first time in 80 years.
- Enhance and or restore approximately 12 miles of perennial streams in support of migratory fish including Chinook salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout,
- Modifying surface water management plans that will maintain surface water flows and reduce stream temperatures thereby improving fish habitat,
- Backfilling the Midnight mine pit and partially backfilling the Hangar Flats mine pit to reduce the future pit lake depths,
- Utilizing a thickened tailings management system that reduces water being introduced to the tailings facility and promotes earlier consolidation of the tailings thereby enhancing stability and facilitating final reclamation and closure,
- Use of cyanide destruction to reduce levels in the tailings to below regulatory thresholds before the material is transported to the lined tailings facility,
- Use of a tailings lining system that includes both geomembrane and geosynthetic clay liners to create redundancy in the system and prevent seepage,
- Adding geosynthetic liners to the development rock storage facilities,
- On site lime quarry that will substantially reduce carbon emissions from the project,
- Moving the proposed access Burntlog access route to reduce wetland impacts,
- Removal and repurposing more than 6 million tons of historic spent leached ore, and,
- Will provide significant financial assurance that will ensure the restoration and reclamation plan is implemented post mining.

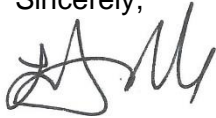
In addition to producing gold the Stibnite project will produce some 100 million pounds of antimony. The United States Geological Survey reports the U.S. currently imports some 85% of its Antimony which is considered critical for use in national defense, aerospace and energy industries. Today China is the lead source of antimony followed by Russia. Development of the Stibnite Mine will aid in securing a reliable U.S antimony supply while applying the most robust environmental requirements.

The COVID pandemic has had devastating economic affects, especially in rural economies. The Stibnite Gold Project presents an economic life-line to rural Idaho. The project will generate some 500-600 direct jobs and twice that with indirect employment. In addition to good paying jobs the purchase of goods and services and tax payments will lead to hundreds of millions in much needed economic benefit to the local economy and State of Idaho.

The Midas Gold team as eagerly embraced wide stakeholder input in developing Alternative 2 or the Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations. I encourage selection of this alternative.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

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

Luke Russell
VP External Affairs