

Ms. Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am familiar with the area and the historic significant of the site. Considering that I also understand public participation is a huge part of the permitting process and I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Based on my review of the DEIS, it seems obvious that the Forest Service should select Alternative 2 as the Agency's Preferred Alternative because this alternative includes the following environmental benefits and advantages:

- \* It accomplishes significant environmental restoration by removing the old mine waste pile in the SODA and placing the proposed TSF in Meadow Creek Valley;
- \* It reprocesses the old tailings in the SODA and places the spent leached ore beneath an impermeable liner under the TSF embankment. Although these activities involve a volumetrically small quantity of material (only 10.5 million tons compared to the 100- million tons of ore that will be processed during the life of the mine) they constitute an important and highly effective environmental restoration aspect of the PRO;
- \* It includes an active water treatment facility;
- \* It is the only alternative that proposes an on-site lime kiln that will minimize traffic, thereby enhancing safety, and reduce vehicular air emissions, including greenhouse gases;
- \* It best responds to public comments raised during public scoping, including the request to preserve seasonal access through the mine site to popular recreational areas;
- \* It avoids the Alternative 4 Johnson Creek travel route that parallels area streams, which increase potential sedimentation and the risk that spills of hazardous substances could flow into Johnson Creek and other streams;
- \* It minimizes exposure to identified avalanche- and landslide-prone areas, thereby reducing public and worker safety hazards; and
- \* It reduces the the project footprint by eliminating the West End Development Rock Storage Facility (DRSF) and partially backfilling the Hanger Flats Pit with some of this material.

The level of planning, analysis, and engineering that has gone into the Stibnite Gold Project proposal and development of the project alternatives is quite impressive. The massive amount of information in the DEIS and associated documents will provide the Forest Service with a very strong foundation for its decisionmaking process.

There has been more than sufficient time to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and adopt Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

Bill Jeffress

Name: Bill Jeffress