

U.S.F.S. Officials,

If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with the Stibnite Gold Project, they will reclaim an area impacted by historical mining, create hundreds of well-paying jobs and provide a huge boost to our economy in the process. It is a win-win for Valley County. We need to permit the project.

Alternative 2 is the result of many years of study by Midas Gold. The company developed this alternative after submitting their original plans and working with stakeholders, community members and environmental groups to try to determine how it could be improved. The result was a smaller project footprint, reconnecting salmon to their native spawning grounds before mining ever begins and improved water quality. Two of the alternatives, 3 and 4, would delay the project by several years and withhold its benefits from Idahoans unnecessarily. Those same alternatives could also become so expensive it could make the project cost prohibitive. With everything happening in the world, I feel strongly that we need to Stibnite Gold Project to move forward now. It would bring 500 well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, invest a billion in Idaho and help improve community infrastructure.

While the economic benefits of this project cannot be ignored, it also will transform an area in need for environmental repair. It is for all of these reasons that I encourage you to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward as outlined in alternative 2 within this 60-day comment period.

I strongly encourage the USFS to approve this project now because of my understanding of history. Ore deposits don't go away. This deposit will be mined someday. If it is developed now there will be many environmental benefits. If it is delayed until there is some national emergency such as a conflict with China then there will probably be no consideration of environmental benefits. When this deposit was mined during world war two the national government was dictating the path and schedule of the project. The imperative was how fast could it be developed with limited resources. If it was faster to put a pit across a salmon spawning stream the so be it. All the focus was on supporting the war effort and there was no consideration for reclamation. That could happen again. There is an opportunity to do it right now. Don't allow special interest groups to delay the project in order for them to extort funding for their special projects. The environment will benefit in the long term.

Best Wishes,

W. C. Rust

Name: William Rust