

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I am writing to express my full support of Midas Gold Idaho and the Stibnite Gold Project. Midas Gold has shown they are committed to Idaho and want to take care of the environment. I hope you move forward and permit this project as quickly as possible. The United States greatly need to do it's own mining of Gold and especially, Antimony. Everyday we come up with more important uses, and at this point, we depend on other countries.

The U.S. Forest Service's online meeting room has made it easy to review the document and comment within the 60-day timeframe. I appreciate your taking the time to put that together. Looking at the document, Alternative 2 stands out compared to the other options. According to a figure in Chapter 4, Hanger Flats pit lake would fill by year 14 of operations in Alternative 2. Under Alternative 1, it would take 19 years. The faster the lake fills up, the faster groundwater levels will recover around the lake. Alternative 3 and 4 would both delay the project by two years and cost more. Alternative 3 would also place the tailings storage facility near the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. This needs to be prevented. While Alternative 4 would put mine traffic to site right next to the river. This is the last thing anyone wants and I am glad this has been thought out.

While the economic benefits of this project cannot be ignored, it also will transform an area that is a disaster from previous mining operations and practices, for environmental repair. It is for all of these reasons that I hope you will approve and move forward with this project.

Thanks for reading, Butch Grothius

Name: Butch Grothius