

Greetings Ms. Jackson and Staff,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project as part of the public permitting process. Having been in the mining industry for 30+ years, I know this project will have a positive impact on the environment, communities surrounding the site and Idahoans.

As you are know, modern mining requires companies be aware of and sensitive to public concerns. Your EIS process provides many opportunities to review concerns and address them through alternatives development as well as mitigation requirements. As I understand the alternatives being analyzed, Alternative 2 of the project includes many of the changes requested for recreation and access.

Many of the anti-mining activists seem to think that modern mining gets a pass with respect to environmental laws and rules and is on-par with historic mining from the early 20th century. It is refreshing to see that the Stibnite project incorporates legacy site reclamation with environmentally protective operational requirements. This project will also provide much needed critical minerals and meet the President's current Executive Order on Critical Mineral Development while providing the state of Idaho with an economic boost. This project appears to be a win-win for all involved.

One of the most important things for development of minerals projects is a realistic schedule. Permitting in the US has become so extended that additional time, rather than improving the process, has become a barrier to implementation of projects and restricts opportunity for technology improvement. As you well know, one of the most effect ways to stop a project is to slow the permitting process down so that companies run out of money. Further delay for comment or public input should not be necessary as the Forest Service has made document and project information very accessible.

I therefore am encouraging the U.S. Forest Service to move to the next step for this project using Alternative 2.

Regards,
Katherine Arnold

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