
From: Angie Miller <info@midasgoldcomments.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Support Stibnite; jay.natoli@gmail.com; natalie
Subject: Comments in Support of Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project

Ms. Jackson and Staff,

This letter is to express my support of Midas Gold and the Stibnite Gold Project. I had been closely following Midas Gold's plans prior to applying for a job as their Environmental Data Analyst. I earned my graduate degree in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho, Moscow and I have been working as an Environmental Scientist collecting and analyzing environmental data for Environmental Site Assessments, Site Cleanups, and Site Restorations on Private, State, Federal and Public lands for nearly 20 years. The more I learned about Midas Gold and this project the more I trusted their motivation and their approach. I became excited about the possibilities for improvements to water quality and their plans for restoration of the site. I am thrilled for rural Idaho to see an economic boost with well-paying jobs that can support a family! And I am proud that Idaho can supply critical minerals to our Country. For these reasons (and many more) I believe this project needs to be permitted! I hope after reading my comments you will understand why my support for Midas Gold Idaho is so strong.

As I understand it, a big challenge facing Idaho is having a trained workforce. Midas Gold not only plans to provide over 1,000 direct jobs for Idahoans, but the company WILL provide employees with training by working directly with schools, community colleges and the Idaho Department of Labor to ultimately build a more skilled workforce in Idaho. This commitment by the company will help benefit Idaho families by providing them jobs that can pay their bills and allow Idaho to attract new businesses in the future. I have heard of concern over the increased number of jobs leading to increased traffic, specifically causing deleterious levels of noise in the backcountry. I know that Midas Gold has already identified opportunities to reduce noise impacts associated with the Project and has already implemented noise reduction plans during their drilling programs at the site. Additionally, they have studied this and have found that, based on the estimated traffic volumes and vehicle mix, and the typical vehicle speeds of 25 mph, estimated average hourly noise levels from the Stibnite Gold Project - related traffic on the mine access route during the construction phase would be 48 dBA LEQ (equivalent continuous level) at 50ft from the roadway. This is well below the impact threshold level of 55 dBA. (page 4.6-8 of the DEIS).

Midas Gold is REQUIRED to set aside ALL the funds needed to properly restore the site in a special trust so the land will be restored no matter what happens to the company. This gives me, peace of mind that the restoration work the company has discussed will come to fruition no matter what some people think might happen to the company. Of specific interest to me, is the East Fork of the South Fork of Idaho's Salmon River, which passes through the Stibnite District. As you know, it is home to some of Idaho's salmon and bull trout populations. Unfortunately, past mining projects left the river to pour into an abandoned mine pit. This pit has prevented salmon from migrating upstream to the headwaters of the Salmon River for the last 80 years, disrupting this crucial ecosystem. If Midas Gold Idaho can move forward with its work, salmon will be reconnected to their native spawning grounds. The company will also enhance and/or restore approximately 12 miles of perennial streams, which in conjunction with this enhanced fish access, will result in roughly 6 miles of additional stream habitat being available for migrating fish, as compared to existing conditions. In addition, the modeled streams surrounding the Hangar Flats pit (EFSFSR and Meadow Creek), are expected to return to similar patterns as the existing conditions up to approximately 4 years sooner for Alternative 2, relative to Alternatives 1 and 3. (DEIS, CH. 4, 4.8-65). And reclamation efforts have already started at the site. Midas Gold has planted thousands of trees and worked to reduce sediment entering waterways near the site. Overtime, this project will significantly enhance the site and surrounding areas, bringing back the scenic beauties (and ecological

functionality) of the past and allowing everyone the opportunity to enjoy Idaho's backcountry. This is very important to me, my family, and my friends!

By design, the Stibnite Gold Project restoration efforts described above and the plan for restoration detailed in the DEIS will improve water quality. In addition, multiple mitigation measures were adopted in Alternative 2 to further reduce impacts to surface and groundwater. Midas Gold has already been monitoring water quality at Stibnite for the last decade. And as you know, Midas has NEVER conducted any mining operations or created the impacts to the site that are degrading water quality. In fact, the water quality has been impacted by naturally elevated levels of certain metals and by more than a century of mining, which unfortunately took place prior to our comprehensive knowledge of how mining impacts water quality and before modern environmental regulations existed.

I believe in the WISE and RESPONSIBLE use of natural resources, which is the traditional definition of Resource Conservation. Preservation was not the intended use designation for a Mining District. And Stibnite is NOT pristine, in fact it needs restoration from past mining activities. Midas is looking for the opportunity to do just that alongside of mining while adhering modern environmental regulations and with all due respect to the NEPA process. Lands, like this, were set aside by our forefathers so that we could be domestically and economically independent to maintain our fought for freedoms. As were other lands set aside to be preserved purely for their uniqueness, beauty and simply as a gift for our enjoyment present and future. The Stibnite Gold project will mine for Gold, the most useful metal on earth and Antimony, considered to be a critical mineral by the US government. I believe that the Stibnite Gold Project is in fact an example of wise and responsible use of our natural resources and in conjunction with mining activities the site will be restored from past neglect and reclaimed from the modern mining.

After doing my own research and then working for Midas for the last three years, I am in complete support of Alternative 2. It is the result of many years of study by Midas Gold and reflects improvements to their own original plan, which is presented under Alternative 1. True to Midas's word of being, "driven by our belief that we can build a mining project that restores the environment, creates economic opportunity and benefits the surrounding communities," these improvements are based not only on Midas's many years of studies but also on feedback from stakeholders, community members and environmental groups alike, which has resulted in a smaller project footprint, improved water quality, and reconnecting salmon to their native spawning grounds before mining ever begins. Two of the other alternatives, 3 and 4, would delay the project by several more years and would withhold these 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 and in Valley County I feel strongly that we need the Stibnite Gold Project to move forward now. It will bring MANY well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, invest a BILLION in Idaho, AND IT WILL restore the site!

This project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to have confidence in their decision to permit Alternative 2 so this brownfield site can be restored. I appreciate that the comment period had been extended so that all that are truly interested in learning more about the Stibnite Project had the time they needed to review it and I do believe that the Sixty days gave us ALL enough time to submit our comments. I hope it also gave you the assurance you need to proceed without additional delays.

Sincerely,
Angie Miller