

Dear US National Forest Service 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 site is rich in gold deposits but it also has antimony, which was recently deemed a critical by the federal government. Antimony is used as a fire retardant and metal strengthener. It is used in everything from batteries, textiles, cell phones, plastics and cable sheathing. Right now, the U.S. doesn't have a domestic antimony mine. The Stibnite Gold Project could provide one-quarter of the American demand for antimony in the country. This is so important with the current tenuous trade relations in our country.

Alternative 3 would result in the largest contribution to mining-related cumulative impacts to vegetation communities under the action alternatives, followed by Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Alternative 4 would have the smallest contribution of mining-related cumulative impacts to vegetation communities under the action alternatives. Cumulative impacts of the SGP on botanical resources and non-native plants would follow the same ranking as for vegetation communities, with Alternative 3 having the highest potential and Alternative 4 having the lowest potential for negative impacts on botanical resources and non-native plants in conjunction with past mining actions. (DEIS, 4.10.4.1). The reason Alternative 4 has less impacts on vegetation is because that alternative eliminates the Burntlog Route as the main access to the mine and replaces it with the Yellow Pine Route. In my view the Yellow Pine Route would be catastrophic for recreation. I love camping and fishing along Johnson Creek. I don't mind having construction traffic for two years but I object to traffic along Johnson Creek for 15 or so years.

I would also like to discuss the fact that Midas Gold is committed to following the Dark Skies Initiative. From my understanding, Midas Gold commissioned a report outlining best practices to reduce light pollution. While many of the specifics will be developed during the design phase, the overall commitment to reducing light pollution by using the right type of light, using light only when it is needed and pointing light in the right direction aligns with best practices used in dark skies ordinances.

I understand there is a concern with vehicle noise along Warm Lake Road, based on the estimated traffic volumes and vehicle mix, and typical vehicle speeds of 25 mph, estimated average hourly noise levels from Stibnite Gold Project-related traffic on the mine access route during the construction phase would be 48 dBA LEQ (equivalent continuous level) at 50 feet from the roadway. This is well below the impact threshold level of 55 dBA. (page 4.6-8 of the DEIS)

Thank you for reviewing my comments. Again, I urge you to permit Midas Gold's carefully thought out plan as outlined under alternative two.

Best Wishes,

Name: Solvej Nielsen