

To Concerned Payette National Forest Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Comment Period. I have been closely following the process, and I support the project for the following reasons.

Midas Gold Idaho has a great project that will become the United States only mined source of the federally-designated critical mineral antimony. Domestic production of critical minerals is essential to our defense, , communications, clean energy and manufacturing sectors.

The project will mitigate legacy mining impacts, primarily from the U.S. involvement at the site during WW II and the Korean War. There are very few projects that invest so heavily in restoring previously disturbed lands and remain focused on minimizing their future disturbances. Removing the source of current contamination will restore historic salmon and steelhead spawning grounds for the first time in many decades.

Mining is a sophisticated industry that provides high paying family-wage jobs in remote areas of the west. Further, this project will bring huge economic benefits to the rural communities surrounding the project site. Midas Gold will directly employ 400-500 employees during construction and operations and have a payroll expected to exceed \$34 million. These numbers do not even capture the indirect jobs nearby towns will see from the operation of the Stibnite Gold Project.

This Stibnite Gold Project is a huge opportunity for Idaho and the United States. Please note my support for permitting alternative 2 and continuing to advance the project through the permitting process.

Yours,

Name: Eric Mears