

Dear U.S.F.S.,

As a 23-year resident of Cascade, I've watched the nearby towns and residents struggle economically. It's been almost 20 years since the Boise-Cascade Mill closed leaving especially Cascade and Donnelly residents dependent on income from recreation-based activities, which has left them at the mercy of economic up- and downturns. Midas Gold will provide stable, good-paying jobs to many, which would improve their quality of living. The trickle-down effect will result in money being put back into the communities by residents and by businesses providing services to Midas Gold and its employees.

Midas has endured the last six years and has honed a plan to reclaim the previously mined site and rehabilitate it so that there will be salmon spawning in the future and clean water once again. In addition to improvements for wildlife, it will mean safe natural resources for residents, campers and fishermen. During Stibnite's earlier mining eras, mine tailings and toxic chemicals leached into the water and soil and may have resulted in birth defects in children born to those growing up in or living in Yellow Pine (read "Mama Cried").

The gold and antimony reclaimed are beneficial and necessary, as they were in WWII, by allowing America to remain self-sufficient and independent of foreign sources. Refusing to allow mining of these critical minerals seems self-sabotaging when all of the imposed safety requirements will be met.

Because Midas believes in protecting public lands and maintaining access by Idahoans, because they have studied the impacts and have met with many entities to address ALL concerns (not just environmental), and because they have refined (Alternative 2) an in-depth plan regarding how they will protect and restore the site, I do believe that Midas Gold is a responsible company with integrity and experience that is capable of doing what they propose. I have visited the site and participated in many question/answer sessions held in the communities during the last several years. Midas' representatives, literature and website have addressed issues transparently and openly, and Midas has showed its support of our communities by funding ballfields, tree-planting projects, sponsoring local events like the Idaho Sled Dog Challenge and so much more financially before any contracts of support were ever signed. Midas is the epitome of the adage, "put your money where your mouth is," as they have and will continue to support our communities through the life of the project.

I wholeheartedly support Midas Gold and the Stibnite Gold Project.

Sincere regards,

Kelly Jo Rutherford-Felton