

Dear U.S.F.S.,

I've lived permanently in Valley County for over 30 years, during which I commuted for several years to the Treasure Valley for better paying work in the construction industry. I also worked in an underground molybdenum mine in Colorado when I was in my 20's, so I have insight into how much money a large mining company can bring to a community. I am currently a business owner in Cascade and would like to see an economy not based solely on tourism.

Low-paying jobs and poverty do not foster pristine environments. It takes commitment and better paying jobs, which result in permanent residents and a flourishing economy. This economic stability enables a community to promote responsible environmental practices. People living hand-to-mouth in an economically poor community don't have the desire or means to focus their efforts on environmental conservation, and the community lacks the funds to provide even maintenance, like placing culverts, building docks, engaging in water quality programs, etc.

I've personally taken the tour and have visited the site, and I believe that Midas will be responsible in its efforts. The oversight of the project by natural resource agencies is further insurance for the reclamation portion of the project.

In addition, I have a 21-year-old son who is moving out-of-state partly because most jobs in Valley County are based in the service industry, and we lack the breadth and depth of job opportunities in non-service industries here in Valley County.

Regards,

Scott W. Felton

Name: Scott Wesley Felton