

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I am writing to express my support for Midas Gold and the Stibnite Gold Project. There are numerous reasons why I support Midas but first and foremost is that Midas Gold is currently cleaning up the area and no one else is doing anything. My parents, and grandparents are retired military and with my sister I lived all over the country and overseas. I have come to love Valley County as we spent much time with our grandparents. They are now full time residents of Valley County. I travel numerous times a year to return to Valley County and my grandparents. I view Donnelly as my home away from home and love the pristine conditions in the area. I want to continue to come to Valley County and recreate and relax with my family.

I have reviewed the DEIS carefully, support the Stibnite Gold Project, and support Alternative 2. Alternative 2 offers the best opportunity to clean up the area with the least impact. Alternative 5 definitely will not work because it is a do nothing approach. We need the area cleaned up and to do nothing and not approve the Project leaves the mess we have today.

The following are my major reasons for supporting Midas and the Stibnite Gold Project:

- The economy. Midas will bring well paying jobs with benefits. Midas will pay a salary almost two times the current average salary for Valley County. It will infuse almost 1,000 jobs over the life of the Project. Additionally, it will provide sorely needed capital to the economy in the form of salaries, costs of doing business, and influx of tax based funds.
- The environment. Midas is currently cleaning up the area and is committed to restore the site. With current laws and safeguards even in the unlikely instance of a Midas sale or decision to close the mine the funds will always be available to clean up and restore the site.
- Antimony. Antimony is not mined in the United States. Coming from a military family I fully understand National Security issues and antimony has been declared a strategic mineral - this is a National Security issue. This mineral is vital to the medical, information technology, and aerospace industries. Today we must import our antimony. Five countries account for 96% of all antimony with China and Russia controlling the overwhelming portion of that percentage. This is unacceptable!

I ask you to support Midas Gold's request to mine at Stibnite.

Thank You,
Katelin Northup