

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/21/2017 6:00:00 AM

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Title:

Comments: Hope that I'm not too late.

Midas Gold's plan for restoring and restarting mining activity in the Stibnite district is exciting! The whole EFSFSR drainage has been turned upside down and the headwaters of the river have been adversely affected by past mining activity. Throughout the redevelopment and construction period, Midas will collaborate with conservation groups and agencies and plans to clean up the disturbed area and restore salmon habitat and migration. Funding for such a cleanup and restoration project could never be afforded by and will never come from the state or federal government.

As a mining engineer who has been in the area and seen the mining legacy left in the EFSFSR drainage from the activity in the 1950's, the PRO as presented by Midas Gold is technically well-thought-out and includes operational standards and practices to mitigate the existing environmental damage and minimize the negative impact and disruption of this environmentally-pristine area during the planned mining operations in the future. In the Golden Meadows site and access plans and infrastructure designs, the company has proposed measures and is committed to protect air quality, ground and surface water, aquatic life, wildlife, and vegetation and timber resources. Midas has also considered recreational aspects in this area and public safety risks during the construction, operation, and reclamation phases.

The Payette National Forest staff has done a commendable job reviewing Midas Gold's scope and plan. Midas Gold is not a fly-by-night gold operator that will only be around for a few years. Over the course of the activity phases, the company will invest heavily into this project with a large mine capital outlay and yield 4-5 million ounces of gold and 180 million pounds of antimony, while employing 500-700 people over a 20-year period. This positive impact will greatly boost Idaho's mineral industry and enhance the economy with direct and indirect dollars from revenues.

Naturally, because of my background, I am strongly in favor of this project going forward. I am impressed with Midas Gold's company philosophy and core values. Company profit is primarily a large motivator for the risk and investment, but other synergies from this endeavor include direct and indirect socioeconomic benefits for the people and businesses in Valley County. Midas Gold actively desires stakeholder input, supports the community, and focuses on listening to concerns and comments from the local people.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my support for this important project.