

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/28/2020 6:00:00 AM

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Organization: Idaho State Senate, State of Idaho

Title: Legislative District 14

Comments: As the senator for Idaho's 14 Legislative district, I urge you to adopt Alternative 2 presented by Midas Gold Idaho for their Stibnite Gold Project. After reviewing the agency's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) I believe Midas Gold is committed to providing investments to boost our economy while repairing the environmental degradation left behind from previous mining activity.

If allowed to proceed, the Stibnite Gold Project will be a \$1 billion investment in Idaho. During the course of its 20-year lifespan, an independent study estimated that the project would generate more than \$150 million in state and local tax revenues. Property taxes adding up to at least \$300,000 annually would be added to local community budgets funding our local schools and community projects. These are major economic contributions to Valley County and the state.

The project plans to hire hundreds of local employees and hundreds more that would move to the region, further stimulating the economy. Valley County ranks among the highest in the state for unemployment, this project would provide a direct injection into the local economy for over a decade.

In addition, Midas plans to use environmentally friendly machinery to restore fish habitats and the environmental legacies present in the stibnite area, at no cost to the taxpayer.

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to accept Alternative 2 as your proposed alternative and let Idahoans and our environment benefit from the investment this company is ready to bring to the Gem State.