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Organization: Idaho House of Representatives

Title:

Comments: U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor 500 North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

As a 7th generation Idahoan and representative of District 11, I seek to make a meaningful difference for my constituents. The investment that Midas Gold is trying to make in our state would do just that. As someone committed to bettering the future economic success of Idaho, I am hopeful to see the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho move forward. Therefore, after review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) I would like to urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2.

From an economic standpoint, this project would create numerous job opportunities for our residents. Over the 20-year span of the project, an estimated 500-1,000 jobs will be created during construction and 50-200 jobs during restoration. An economic study conducted also found that this project would generate more \$150 million in state and local tax revenues that would directly benefit our businesses, schools, and first responders.

This project would be a direct private investment into our community without wasting taxpayer dollars. Additionally, Midas Gold has committed to restoring Stibnite mining district and repairing the damage left behind from over a century of unregulated mining. The U.S. Government invested a small amount to help with restoration efforts at Stibnite, but it was not enough. Midas Gold has submitted a plan that is robust and is as much about mining as it is about reclamation and environmental restoration.

I am grateful for the diligent work that your team and the U.S. Forest Service have conducted in the draft Environmental Impact Statement I truly believe the Stibnite Gold Project will provide a needed economic jumpstart to our economy, and that is why I hope you will accept the Alternative 2 put forth by Midas Gold in their proposal.

Sincerely,

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Tammy Nichols

Idaho House of Representatives District 11, Seat B