

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Bryan

Last name: DeVeny

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's comment period. I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans since they first came into our state, in large part because much of the proposed project will take place on public land. The more I have learned about the project, the more excited I am about the possibilities for the future.

One of the biggest challenges facing Idaho is having a trained workforce. Midas Gold not only plans to hire hundreds of Idahoans but the company will provide employees with training to build a more skilled workforce in Idaho. We applaud Midas Gold's commitment to helping Idahoans get valuable training that may not otherwise be available. This commitment by the company will help benefit Idaho families and allow Idaho to attract new businesses in the future. To date, Midas Gold has spent over \$89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors. If the project moves forward, the company will also invest heavily in environmental restoration, especially under alternative 2. During operations, Midas Gold will treat water to lower levels of arsenic, antimony and mercury in the river. This investment will cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). The company will also be able to increase productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations of chinook, bull trout and steelhead by opening up long-term access to blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-39).

While the economic benefits of this project cannot be ignored, it also will transform an area in need for environmental repair. It is for all of these reasons that I encourage you to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward as outlined in alternative 2 within this 60-day comment period. .

Yours, Bryan DeVeny