

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/1/2020 6:00:00 AM

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Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in with my support for the permitting of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. This project has earned that support by meeting several criteria that are important to me, including environmental restoration of the Stibnite Mining District and economic growth for Valley County.

Let me begin by commending Midas Gold for their transparency throughout all phases of the Project. Not only are they open about their plans, goals and daily operations for the Stibnite Mining District, but they also regularly bring visitors up for tours of the site. As of the end of last year, roughly 80 tours were given with over 900 people getting the opportunity to hear Midas Gold's plans firsthand.

It is this high level of transparency that has allowed them to garner the support of the community as well as become active members. It is clear they take their role as a good corporate citizen seriously with Midas Gold employees volunteering thousands of hours of their free time and the company contributing to local community giving projects.

The Stibnite Mining Project would also bring well-paying jobs and economic growth into our area with hundreds of jobs created during construction and operations. Those jobs include general laborers, mechanics and engineers, among others at an average compensation of around \$80,000 per year. This far exceeds the area's average yearly compensation of \$35,000. But the Project's economic benefits won't just be limited to company employees. The direct, indirect and induced impacts from local job creation are estimated at over \$28 million in annual local income during construction and over \$29 million per year during operations.

Finally, as local residents are well aware, the Stibnite Mining District is showing the consequences of past mining activities. Water quality, fisheries and the natural habitat all have suffered lasting damage. Through its responsible mining proposal, Midas Gold plans to repair that damage before any mining even takes place. In fact, they've already begun to do so, cleaning up sediment and restoring miles of fish habitat.

For all these reasons, I would encourage the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold and examined in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

Sincerely,

Joni Stevenson