

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/7/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Paris A

Last name: Ham

Organization:

Title:

Comments: If I were in the position to approve a project that would mean more jobs for Idaho workers, a stronger economy for the whole state, and the environmental restoration of a long[shy] neglected area, I know what my answer would be-and that's a resounding yes. That is why I hope the U.S. Forest Service will act as swiftly as possible to approve the pending development of the Stibnite Mining District by Midas Gold Idaho.

Anyone from Central Idaho can tell what mess Stibnite has become over generations of mining activities that did not live up to today's environmental standards. They'll also tell you how badly our local communities need jobs, especially right now as we're all struggling to get back on our feet after the recent economic shutdown. Midas Gold's plan for the Stibnite Gold Project would address both of these concerns.

All told, the project would create up to 700 jobs during the construction phase and up to another 600 jobs during the ongoing operations. These operational jobs would range from administration and management professionals to mechanics and electricians to geologists and environmental specialists. And these would be good-paying jobs, too, averaging roughly \$80,000 a year as compared to the average \$35,000 in the area surrounding the project, according to an economic impact study.

The USFS's own draft environmental impact statement indicates that the long-term productivity of the Stibnite Gold Project area would economically benefit the entire state. Moreover, the statement reiterates that these economic gains would happen sooner under Alternative 2 as opposed to Alternatives 3 and 4, both of which would add delays to the timeline.

Idaho needs the jobs the Stibnite Gold Project would provide and we need them sooner rather than later. That is why I urge your support of this project and swift approval of Alternative 2.