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First name: Don

Last name: Sheriff

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Payette National Forest Supervisor,

I am writing to comment on the proposed Midas Gold Idaho Stibnite Gold Project. I am a PhD scientist who resides in McCall. I am a four-season outdoor enthusiast and consider myself a conservationist who is very concerned about the impacts of human behaviors on the environment. Because of this, I have read the Forest Service Executive Summary of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and pertinent parts of the detailed EIS. Based on what I have found, I fully support their project. Some of the reasons are:

- a) Economy. Midas Gold will have a much needed positive impact on our economy. The creation of high paying year-round jobs, planned infrastructure improvements, as well as construction of new housing will boost the economy in a region with a high proportion of seasonal workers, many infrastructure needs, and a critical shortage of affordable housing. Importantly, many of the above benefits will continue long past the cessation of the mining and reclamation operations.
- b) Restoration. The legacy of mining in the Stibnite area, a brownfield site, is destroyed habitat, loss of fisheries, high levels of toxic chemicals in the soil and water, and unsightly disturbed terrain. After early limited efforts, no government entities have undertaken or publicly announced plans to undertake additional restoration efforts. Again, even before the permitting process is complete, Midas Gold has planted thousands of trees and worked to reduce sediment entering waterways near the site. Although, the project will have a bigger footprint than the legacy site, the planned reclamation and restoration activities will return the area to a far better condition than its current state.
- c) Global vs Local Impact. For the understandable and reasonable desire to reduce pollution and preserve habitat in the US, the actions of citizens and organizations often prevent harvesting of natural resources. Unfortunately, many times, the actions are not based on facts or are based on selected facts. The result is to push these operations overseas where activities like mining and logging, e.g., are less-well regulated and often have devastating global environmental impacts and negative effects on the local economies and populace. I would prefer that, where practicable, the US harvest our natural resources in the US where we can better control the impacts. Also, as the largest consumer of global resources, we have a duty to use our own resources and not deplete those of the rest of the world.

In sum, should Midas Gold be allowed to move forward with their project, they will have positive impacts on the local outdoor environment, social/community environment, economy, and infrastructure, and will begin to fill a strategic need while helping the US be a more responsible global partner.

The USFS has provided sufficient time to review the document and provide comments. It is time to move forward. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to pick Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for the Stibnite Gold Project.

Thank you,

Don Sheriff

Name: Don Sheriff