

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/14/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Michael J

Last name: McCausland

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Concerned 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 it will bring into our state.

Today at the site, leftover mining waste is leaching metals into groundwater and hurting wildlife and local communities. Midas has been monitoring the site for the last decade and discovered there are high levels of arsenic and antimony in the water, far beyond what is acceptable for drinking water standards. Of course, these problems were created long ago by historical mining operations and not by Midas Gold. However, the company has a plan to address these problems. Alternative 2 offers viable solutions to improve the site. It creates a plan to clean up existing tailings and store future tailings in a state-of-the-art storage facility. I trust Midas to safely reprocess and store the tailings because their facility contains several important design factors to prevent against breaches, leaks, or excessive water accumulation.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. The U.S. Forest Service has provided Idahoans with meaningful tools to easily review the document and ample time to comment. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project following alternative two.