

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

First name: David

Last name: Hembree

Organization: Tenmile Mining District

Title: (Chairman of Board of Directors)

Comments: Payette National Forest,

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

Alternative Two as proposed by Midas Gold is the best solution to protect important fish populations and the environment. It includes several updates from Alternative One that reduce impact to salmon habitat and increase environmental safeguards. Alternative Two will facilitate action as soon as possible. Unfortunately, Alternatives Three and Four would delay the project by two years, slowing down the environmental and economic benefits the Stibnite Gold Project promises to bring. Right now, with the ongoing crisis caused by the pandemic, we need to build a strong domestic supply chain and provide well-paying jobs for Idahoans. A delay in the project would have negative impacts to rural communities. While I know Alternative Five must be considered, we have come too far in this process to take no action at all in the historical Stibnite Mining District. If Midas Gold is not allowed to move forward with its project, the problems facing the region will likely only get worse.

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.