

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Marcie

Last name: Cooke

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: I want to share my support for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project.

Valley County residents need better jobs. Many of our families and businesses rely on seasonal tourism for income. After the coronavirus, it is not clear that those jobs will continue to exist. The Stibnite Gold project would go a long way towards improving the financial security of our communities.

Midas Gold's project would completely alter the economic situation of Valley County. The company expects to contribute over \$200 million in state and local taxes and create \$150 million in regional sales transactions over the life of the project. That money would fund better education, enhanced infrastructure, and healthier small businesses.

Although Midas Gold's proposal is for a long-term project, its approval would have much-needed immediate positive effects. The company intends to invest over \$1 billion and hire more than 600 employees just to construct their worksite. They will prioritize local hiring from the start of the project, ensuring that nearby communities benefit the most. As a CAT employee, I am also excited to hear of the immense opportunities that will be available for indirect workers to serve the project as well.

The Stibnite Gold project has the potential to change the lives of thousands of Valley County residents. It would be irresponsible to block their plans without a better alternative to create lasting jobs and economic growth. I strongly encourage you to adopt Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold in their Plan of Restoration and Operations.