

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2020 10:09:16 PM

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Comments: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest

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Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I would like to voice my support for the Stibnite Gold Project.

In the 1980's/1990's much of my family were proud to have worked and raised our families working at the mine. My father worked at Stibnite mine in the early 80's and just 10 short years later, I started working at the mine. The mine allowed me to support my wife and two young children for many years. As a local Idahoan, I am proud of Stibnite's rich history. With the largest antimony deposit in the United States, past mining at Stibnite was critical in supporting the Armed Forces' during WWII and the Korean War. With that same antimony supply, the Stibnite Gold Project proposed in Alternative Two will enable us to once again play a vital role in American progress.

Antimony is a critical mineral considered vital to America's national security and economic well-being. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, this mineral is in short supply and must be strategically stockpiled in the U.S. Luckily, a 2014 Pre-Feasibility Study identified that the Stibnite Gold Project can produce at least 100 million pounds of antimony and supply approximately a quarter of the needed supply here in the U.S.

Moreover, this is not only a chance to reduce our dependence on foreign nations for imports, but also help the environment in the process. Right now, China dominates the production of antimony that we import but they are also the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter. Therefore, domestically sourcing materials like antimony will allow us to mine resources under stricter carbon emission standards like those regulating mining operations in the United States.

But this WWII-era mining operated under different regulations and they used the Meadow Creek Valley as an unlined tailings disposal site, with permission from the federal government. Today, the 3 million tons of tailings left behind is one of the primary reasons why the water quality in the area is compromised. Midas Gold Idaho has monitored the site's water for the past decade and found levels of arsenic and antimony in certain areas that are well beyond safe standards for drinking or water life.

A major focal point of the Stibnite Gold Project is the removal, reprocessing, and proper storage of these historical tailings into a state-of-the-art tailings facility. According to the U.S. Forest Service's draft Environmental Impact Statement, Midas Gold's proposal would improve the water quality. In chapter 4, your department found that removing legacy tailings and waste lowers concentrations of antimony and arsenic in the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River (4.9-70).

Alternative Two as outlined by Midas Gold Idaho will allow Stibnite to be a strategic partner for the U.S. government, as it has been in the past, while also fixing its legacy environmental problems. I urge you to support the measure.

Sincerely,