

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Kristina

Last name: Kesler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with the Stibnite Gold Project, they will reclaim an area impacted by historical mining, create hundreds of well-paying jobs and provide a huge boost to our economy in the process. It is a win-win for Valley County. We need to permit the project.

The Stibnite Gold Project will bring massive economic benefits to Idaho, particularly in Valley County. Midas Gold will directly employ 400-500 employees during construction and operations with an expected payroll of \$34 million. These numbers do not even capture the indirect jobs. Independent estimates suggest indirect employment creation of roughly 500-800 people, including personnel involved in the supply chain and people to meet the increased needs in local communities. This project has the potential to have a positive, widespread impact on the state. Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs.

And with the coronavirus, we need it now more than ever. 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.