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First name: Jerry

Last name: Deckard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Monday, September 14, 2020

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor 500 North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

Dear Linda,

I am writing today to share my support for the Stibnite Gold Project as outlined in Midas Gold Idaho's modified Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) submitted to the United States Forest Service. Approval will allow the Stibnite Gold Project to create hundreds of jobs for local communities, and it will inject millions of dollars of investment into the region. In addition, this comprehensive plan will work to restore habitats and fix environmental degradation from past mining projects.

First, this project is estimated to employ 500 Idahoans during normal operations, including miners, general laborers, mechanics, geologists, administrators, and technicians. The project will also bolster the health of local businesses, creating over \$152 million in sales and commerce during mining operations. Good salaries and economic growth will allow state and municipalities to collect more tax revenues, which is money that can be used for infrastructure, public safety, education, and social services for Idaho.

Environmental cleanup is expensive and there is a lot of work to be done at the site. Midas Gold will cover all costs through private investment and rewrite the legacy of this region. For example, as outlined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by removing legacy tailings and waste from previous projects, Midas will lower the concentration of antimony and arsenic in the river. (Ch 4, p. 4.9-70) Midas did not cause those problems hurting the river, but their plan will clearly improve the quality of the site.

I encourage you to adopt Alternative 2, as it gives central Idaho a comprehensive plan to revitalize the region's economy and restore its environmental wellbeing.

Sincerely,

//s Jerry Deckard