

Attention Payette National Forest Supervisor,

I am proud to submit my comments in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. This project presents our state with an incredible opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost our state's economy and use private investment to clean up a brownfield site.

As the former Director of Purchasing for Simplot, I know the effect of large corporations in Idaho. While Midas will not be as large of an employer, they will be larger in revenues that will greatly impact our economy. It is something that Idaho needs right now as we struggle for funding for things like schools and roads. The company has also made a pledge to hire locally whenever possible and plans to provide around 1,000 jobs for Idahoans throughout the life of the project. Midas Gold salaries will be approximately two times higher than the local salary. It is impossible to ignore the positive trickle down effect an investment of this size would have on our community and economy.

While I am a full-time resident of Boise, I spend nearly half our time at our home in Donnelly. Two years ago, my wife and I had a chance to tour the Stibnite site, and were shocked at its state. It's not everyday that you get to tour a brownfield. The idea that this site will be significantly improved by Midas really means alot to our environment.

If the Stibnite Gold Project goes into production, Idaho would see a huge economic benefit. Midas Gold plans to invest \$1 billion in the state, contribute \$86 million in state and local taxes and make improvements to roads and power grid near the site. Our economy needs this project but so does our environment.

For these reasons I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to continue to move the project forward and permit the site using alternative 2 as the guide. It looks to be the most solid of the plans.

Please keep my comments in mind,

Dudley Ward

Eagle Idaho and Donnelly Idaho

Name: