

GREETINGS,

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.

There are many checks and balances in place to ensure Midas Gold Idaho follows through on its promises to restore the site. In fact, the company is required by law to set aside all of the money it needs for restoration before mining can begin. However, I am not worried about Midas Gold Idaho staying true to its word. The company has already started restoration work at the site. They have planted more than 60,000 trees to help reduce the amount of sediment going into the river, installed solar energy panels at site to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improved miles of road along the river to protect fish habitat. Alternative 2 appears to be the best option for the project moving forward. In that alternative, the company decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8). The company would also reprocess legacy materials in the Meadow Creek Basin, SODA and Hecla Heap, which remove them as a source for leaching arsenic and antimony into the ground and surface water. The to analysis in the document (4.9-17) shows this will make further water degradation from these sources less likely in the future. Removing legacy tailings waste will also improve water quality in Meadow Creek Valley (4.12).

The comment period also should not be extended to 120 days; 60 days is sufficient time to allow for comments. This project has been delayed long enough and I believe that the USFS has done a nice job of providing all the information in a concise manner for all to review.

Midas Gold has been very open and transparent on what their plans are for this project. There have been several entities that have spewed inflammatory comments and it's stop this hatred. Midas Gold has been available to discuss and elaborate on their plans for the mine, however where are the people/entities that continuously sling hate towards this company and the mine? They sit comfortably behind the safety of their computers, write letters to the editors but do not make the effort to discuss their concerns about the plans for the mine with Midas Gold. Midas Gold holds office hours every month and with the untimely impact of COVID have been stepping up their availability to the public. They hold webinars and office hours weekly to allow the public the opportunity to discuss the project.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the proposed plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider and appropriately weigh the positive benefits Midas Gold will have on Idaho. Alternative Two truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment.

Permit the mine!

Have a good day,

Name: Savannah Thurmond