

USFS,

I am writing about the proposed mining operations made by Midas Gold for the Stibnite area. This company is interested in earning a profit and would not propose this project unless it was thought to be profitable. The company has invested substantially in this project and expects that investment to perform. The project will result in considerable excavation work and displacement of streams in that area. The current site is one of considerable environmental disruption and damage. I fully support Midas Gold in its proposal.

Unlike previous mining operations in the area, Midas Gold has developed a comprehensive plan of disruption mitigation and rehabilitation. It is true that past mining operators have sadly done poorly on environmental damage but Midas Gold has on its own accord, and at great trouble and expense, studied and mapped out not just mitigation plans but a plan to improve conditions at the site throughout operations. It is likely that when these are implemented, salmon fish runs will be restored to the area. I do understand how some people will be skeptical of such promises based on historical operations but we, and Midas Gold, learn from history. We are not enslaved by the past; we can learn from it and it seems that Midas certainly has. Let's do this.

The plan of operations looks to bring employment opportunities to the area. Yellow Pine will certainly be impacted. Some residents will be put off by this but most will experience a noticeable improvement in wealth from property value increases, improved access to the area from Cascade, and an increase in economic opportunities attending to an increase in the number of employed persons at the mine who are rather well paid for the area, thank-you very much.

Cascade, Donnelly, Tamarack Resort, and McCall are all likely to see a positive economic impact from the mine not just in terms of economic activity, but from a diversification of the economy. Much of the economy of this area is tied closely to tourism and recreation. Seemingly gone are the forest products industries that once anchored these towns with steady year-round incomes. The current economies exist mostly tied to ski resorts and Payette Lake and Cascade Reservoir. Coffee shops, motels, and other tourist diversions predominate. An influx of engineers, geologists, miners, and equipment operators (and more) would serve to broaden the business activity in these town to cater to the interests of these permanent residents. Economic growth, wealth creation, and attending improvement in the standard of living are wonderful. Woo hoo.

The metals to be extracted are of significant importance to the economy. Many think of gold as a luxury but it has tremendous utility for electronics too. Antimony and silver, also strategic metals are to be recovered in economic quantity. Outside the United States, these same elements are mined but at often-times great environmental cost and from sources that are problematic in exporting to us. It is nice when profitable production is possible domestically with a added assurance of environmental protection. I like nice.

Midas Gold has the brain-power, technology, trained workforce (including those yet to be hired), and well scoped plan to mine, mitigate, repair, and environmentally improve the Stibnite area. I have no hesitation in supporting the plan of operations and approval of mining operations by Midas Gold. Git er dun.

Name: Greg J Sandmeyer