

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

I'm writing today to add my comment to the many who support the proposed Stibnite Gold Project from Midas Gold. Local communities and our entire state will benefit from the new jobs and economic activity this project will create. The U.S. Forest Service should approve Alternative 2 for this project to make sure we don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Especially in these rough economic times, anything that will mean more jobs for the Idahoans who need them so badly is welcome in my book. And this project will create well-paying jobs for local communities. During the construction phase, Midas Gold anticipates creating 600-700 direct jobs and supporting hundreds more indirectly.

Once operations begin, the project is expected to support roughly 500 direct jobs. And, once again, hundreds more indirectly—including in the supply chain for goods and services, local transportation, as well as jobs to fill increased needs in the community. Basically, this project will create a positive economic ripple effect that would be felt across the state as a multitude of businesses would be involved.

Midas Gold has already shown itself to be a valuable partner for Idaho, having spent nearly \$70 million with local businesses and invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in infrastructure and road improvements even before the project has begun. Just imagine how much our economy will benefit once this project is up and running.

Of course, we don't need you to imagine, we just need you to approve Alternative 2. The sooner, the better, as the draft environmental impact statement found that mine site construction and operations could help support the viability of local communities and offset potential adverse impacts related to climate change (4.4.2.1.4.17).

There's no reason not to move this project forward. Please do so as soon as possible by approving Alternative 2.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan M. Shoemaker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "S".