

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

I am writing to share my thoughts on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project. There are many reasons why I am excited for Midas Gold's project to come to fruition and I hope through my comments you will understand why.

First, the project will bring huge economic benefits to the rural communities surrounding the project site. Midas Gold will directly employ 400-500 employees during construction and operations. Payroll is expected to exceed \$34 million. These numbers do not even capture the indirect jobs I am confident nearby towns will see from the Stibnite Gold Project.

The Stibnite Gold Project is good for the Idaho workforce. Midas Gold's strong commitment to hiring locally and using community vendors and suppliers helps build our economic base. The salaries of the positions at the Stibnite Gold Project will be approximately two times higher than typical jobs in Valley County. The financial security and on-the-job training opportunities these positions bring has the potential to create meaningful change to families throughout the region. Additionally, we know mining brings more than jobs and robust wages to our state, it promotes the development of secondary businesses and the production of more goods and materials right here in Idaho.

Midas Gold Idaho is not your typical mining company and we have an opportunity to use their investment to not just grow the economy but also help the environment that is hurting from past activity. Someone must take charge if we ever want to reclaim this brownfield site. According to Chapter 4 of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternative 2 would provide a net gain of 11.1 km of intrinsic potential habitat for fish like steelhead trout and bull trout. The document also indicates this alternative could help to increase productivity and diversity of these fish by opening up access to historically blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-39).

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, still provide access to Idaho's public lands, and invest to protect the wetlands and river that go through Stibnite. This is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to pick Alternative 2 as the preferred choice moving forward.

Best regards,

Allison Bralley

2820 Koskella rd.

Donnelly Id.

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