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First name: Bruce

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

October 23, 2020 Attn: Linda Jackson,

RE: Comment letter for Stibnite Gold Project DEIS

Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson:

Please accept and consider my attached comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in your decision and analyses for the project.

The DEIS clearly meets the requirements of NEPA and Forest Service Regulations. I support Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. The additional modifications from the original proposal described in Alternative 2 reduce environmental impacts and the environmental enhancements in Alternative 2 comply with the USFS mandate in 36 CFR 288.8 to minimize adverse impacts of locatable mineral projects.

The Stibnite site is an abandoned mine site. Decades of mining prior to enactment of any federal environmental laws, implementation of Forest Service regulation 36 CFR 228 Subpart A, or development of Idaho state regulations and subsequent requirements for reclamation and maintaining clean water have left the site badly in need of reclamations. Federal dollars were spent during war years to obtain critical minerals from this area. Huge sums, including federal dollars, have also been spent in this area of Idaho to reclaim old mine sites, with limited success, and more needs to be done. I am aware of and applaud the USFS efforts to conduct restoration work on the site. The proposal by Midas will greatly help in repairing the past environmental damage, with the cost born by Midas instead of the taxpayers. If you approve this project and issue a Record of Decision and plan approval, reclamation can proceed, and while economic conditions favor the project.

Midas Gold Idaho, Inc. has provided a plan to address most if not all the major site issues that remain from the decades-old mining operations during World War II and earlier.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ramsey
Licensed Professional Geologist
Retired USFS