

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 3:42:51 PM

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To Guild or not to Guild - a cautionary comment on Midas Gold Stibnite Mine Project

The activity of cyanide-leach open pit mining is a costly endeavor, both in investment capital and environmental impact. The potential profit, however, may be higher than the average citizen of Idaho can imagine. It is reasonable that many Valley County residents embrace the proposed infusion of capital and infrastructure into their region. We must scrutinize the situation today in order to ensure a safe and sane Idaho for future generations. Let us look at the stated facts and figures.

Midas Gold estimates that an average of 500 jobs annually will exist for the life of the 25-year project. Another estimate in print claims 1000 jobs and an annual payroll of \$55 million. This figure should be taken in context with the potential yield of the Stibnite mine and the environmental impact that such a project is sure to create.

Air quality and CO2 emissions must be addressed. The mining industry claims 1 ton of CO2 is emitted into our atmosphere for every ounce of gold produced. What is the cost of this pollution and what should MG do to offset it? If this information is not included in the Midas Gold's EIS, then the study must be revisited.

The terrestrial impact of the expanded mine site is an obvious concern for anyone who cares about the future of our ecosystem which has sustained life thus far. An estimated 300,000 and 337,000 oz. gold will be extracted annually, which equals a major windfall for investors in the Canada based multi-national corporation. The current price of gold (\$1930/oz.) would yield Midas Gold between \$579 million and \$650 million each year! This profit must be managed to the benefit of many, not just the wealthy few.

If the Midas Gold Stibnite Mine project is implemented, an unbiased and unhurried impact study must be published and thoroughly reviewed. The working project must receive continual monitoring by a broad coalition of stakeholders, including the Nez Perce Tribe. Fiscal net profit should be held in a trust, ensuring the Project plan is adhered to. Disbursement of the predicted yield \$7,800,000,000 worth of gold (not to mention Silver, Antimony) should not be made until phases of the project are sufficiently completed.

The children of Idaho will not profit from mining today. If done incorrectly, our inheritance will be more blight, waste, and greed. Where your treasure is, there should also be your heart, Idaho.