

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 8:13:52 PM

First name: Peter

Last name: Haarala

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ms. Jackson,

I am pleased to be able to write the U.S. Forest Service in support of permitting the proposed activities outlined by Midas Gold in Alternative 2 during this public input process.

I am a licensed professional Mining Engineer with over 20 years in the Mining Industry currently residing in Utah. I am a native of Upper Michigan where I am familiar with the footprints left by mining and understand the liability they pose. I have had to great fortune to be able to come into the industry during a time where company value and ethics have been environmentally focused not because they have to, but because companies legitimately want to.

I myself am very passionate about resource conservation, active environmental stewardship on the job, and proactive and innovative rehabilitation of mining projects after completion. I was honored by Barrick Gold in 2016 for an Environmental Excellence award for my proactive work with a newly permitted re-opening mine on public land in Nevada (Arturo Mine). I have first hand knowledge to know what it takes to permit and operate a mine under current regulations. It takes constant focus and attention to consistently address all the commitments that are made, but it is achievable and attainable especially for Midas Gold.

One of the surprising factors to how successful a project can be environmentally is the "human factor". I had the pleasure to lead the construction and mining activities for the Arturo project and I can tell you that people want to do the right thing. People know what it takes to get a mine going, what kind of efforts are expended to keep them employed and provide for their families. And they show respect for those commitments to help pave the way for future generations. That's a real powerful message that can be sent by the workforce. In an area that would benefit greatly for these high paying jobs, it makes another win-win situation for Idaho.

Midas Gold has put together a terrific plan for both operation and remediation of the surrounding project area. As a seasoned veteran of the industry, I can think of no better way to accomplish the goal of rehabilitating the existing problems without incredible financial burden to the State. Their commitment to the environment and it's protection is real and I know that their plan is achievable. This is a huge win-win for everyone. Take care of the mess and engage with an environmentally orientated mining company to continue to provide a benefit to the economy.

Upon review of my letter, I hope it gives you some insight that the environment will be cared for, should you choose to support the permit alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Best Regards,

Peter