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Organization:

Title:

Comments: U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest

Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor

500 North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

Ms. Jackson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of Midas Gold and the Stibnite Gold Project during the DEIS public comment period.

I am an Idaho native, full time Valley County resident, recreationalist, and environmentalist. I work in natural resource management and appreciate the timely and efficient evaluation of this project; I encourage you to approve this project in a timely manner in support of Alternative 2. As someone who cares deeply about the environment in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine area, I am thankful for the opportunity to express my support for the permitting of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold. While previous mining projects have left the area in bad shape, this project is designed with environmental restoration at its core. I have been to Stibnite many times and have spent time fishing and enjoying recreational opportunities on Johnson Creek, the South Fork and EFSF of the Salmon River. For this I appreciate Midas Golds effort to include and listen to recreational users like myself.

In fact, Midas has gone above and beyond to ensure this project meets the highest in safety and environmental standards. The company has been working in the area for more than 10 years now, already laying the groundwork for the environmental clean-up that will begin in earnest once the project is fully approved and permitted. Midas's original Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service in 2016 and has been reviewed by seven different local, state, and federal regulatory bodies.

Last spring, Midas updated and submitted a modified PRO to the U.S. Forest Service. This updated version includes important updates that reflect the feedback from local community members and makes changes that improve the design of the project to further reduce the environmental impact. These changes include proposing ways to better manage surface water and improve both ground and surface water quality; adding an extra layer of liner to their tailings storage facility to prevent trace metals from leaching into the water supply; and providing safe public access through the site for the local community. Additionally, the company included plans to reroute power lines to reduce the impact on the wetlands and address the concerns of landowners. I encourage the USFS and permitting entities to continue to work with Midas Gold to make the Stibnite Gold Project the best economic and environmental opportunity in Valley County.

Prioritizing safety for the environment as well as workers, Midas is also incorporating best practices in the transportation, storage, and use of hazardous materials. The company's track record speaks for itself: in the past 10 years, they have conducted over 195 successful fuel hauls and they haven't had a reportable spill in over 100 months. Midas is planning to construct the necessary infrastructure to ensure the highest degree of safety during the transportation of hazardous materials, complete with an on-site hazardous materials response team.

Midas has a robust tour program taking anyone and everyone to Stibnite to learn and ask questions about the history, current conditions and Midas Golds plans for Stibnite. During COVID they have provided numerous open Office Hours, 101 SGP presentations and technical webinars for folks to use as resources and educational tools to better understand the project. They have gone above and beyond in community engagement both through

tours and their overall presence in our community. The number of hours, resources, and financial support they have provided to our community is unwavering.

Midas is clearly listening to feedback from the community/recreationalists/environmentalists and adapting their plans accordingly, while ensuring safety for the environment, workers, and the public. For these reasons, I ask that you accept Alternative Two and allow this project to move forward. I urge you to focus on approving this project in a timely manner focused on scientific facts rather than emotional arguments. Mining is willing to fix a current site that is degrading each and every day with no other solution provided by other opposing parties.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rambur
Donnelly Idaho