

DISTRICT 9
Counties: Adams, Canyon,
Payette & Washington



HOME ADDRESS
5370 Elmore Rd
Fruitland, ID 83619

208-250-6744
alee@senate.idaho.gov

Idaho State Senate
SENATOR ABBY LEE

August 24, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

As an Idaho state Senator, I care deeply about projects that will benefit Idaho families and the state as a whole. After review of the U.S. Forest Service's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project, I believe this project would revitalize the environment and habitat of the Stibnite Mining District and provide significant economic benefits to our entire state. With that in mind, please consider my support for this project and my recommendation to adopt Alternative 2.

The Stibnite Gold Project will bring private investment to Idaho by working with local vendors to purchase equipment and supplies, and through hiring hundreds of local employees. Highland Economics, an independent economic consulting firm, conducted an independent impact analysis of the project and found that Midas Gold Idaho's proposal would provide up to 1,000 new jobs during construction.

Mining jobs are lucrative, especially considering Idaho's consistent ranking among the lowest per capita income states in the nation these jobs are important. The project's employees are estimated on average to make over \$63,000 per year, this is well above the region's average. Economic opportunities that provide good, sustaining wages are exactly what Idaho needs.

As included in the company's proposed Plan of Restoration and Operations to the U.S. Forest Service, Midas Gold Idaho plans to undertake substantial improvements to the environment. The Stibnite mining area has a storied past in the state, however given lax environmental regulations of the past the area was left worse for wear. Midas Gold is committed to investing in a robust reclamation process that will guarantee the land and wildlife – specifically our salmon population – are protected and the environment is left in pristine condition for generations to come.

With these benefits in mind, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 as your preferred alternative so that this project can move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abby Lee".

Senator Abby Lee, District 9