

Payette National Forest,

This message is to express my support of Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project. America & Idaho need this project to be permitted. I hope after reading some of my thoughts you will understand why I strongly support for Midas Gold Idaho.

The Stibnite Mining District is home to the largest known antimony deposit in the United States. According to the 2014 Prefeasibility Study, the project will produce over 100 million pounds of antimony. Antimony is considered a critical mineral by the U.S. government for its use in national defense, aerospace and energy industries. The U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) has cited a growing demand for minerals like antimony due to new and emerging technologies and that the domestic supply is limited and at risk with no current domestic production or strategic stockpile. According to the USGS, there was zero U.S. domestic mine production of antimony in 2019. The US is dependent upon imports for this critical mineral.

I like the ideas the company has for employing an average of 500 workers, and providing housing and recreational facilities along with all of the other necessities such as composting garbage, etc. It is a very thorough plan the company has that will benefit everyone involved.

I am impressed by Midas Gold's plans to clean up water quality conditions at the site by removing sediment and old materials blocking the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Today, Chinook Salmon & Steelhead cannot access spawning grounds because they are blocked by an abandoned mining pit. Midas will address this issue before mining even begins "reconnecting fish for the first time in more than 80 years. The company will build a fish passageway in the short term and eventually restore full access to 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of fish spawning habitat above the Yellow Pine pit. If we do not allow Midas Gold to move forward with their plans, it is highly unlikely anyone else will provide the funds needed to reconnect fish to this currently lost habitat.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project the USA & Idaho need. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using alternative two presented by Midas Gold, as expeditiously as possible. There is no need to extend the comment period. Sixty days is plenty of time to comment and we need the benefits of this project now.

Thanks for reading and considering my comments. I could write so much more, but I think I've said enough, considering you must be very busy.

Edwin Swisher

Name: Edwin Swisher