

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

Dear Ms. Jackson:

I am writing you in support of the Alternative 2 plan Midas Gold has put forth to restore the area around the former Stibnite mine. This plan will further the environmental clean-up that's long been needed in Valley County. I've lived in this area most of my life, and the mining sites originally created in the 1800s have been overlooked by our community for too many years now.

These old mining sites were dug before companies understood what their impact on the environment would be. I truly believe Midas Gold understands the impact, and they are committed to conducting their operations in a way that will have a minimal effect on our precious natural resources.

Aside from the extra precautions that Midas will undergo to ensure their mine does not leak damaging chemicals, they work will also contribute committed a sizable economic benefit to our local community. In fact, Midas has already spent more than \$69 million in our state through Idaho-based vendors and contractors. If Alternatives 2 is allowed to proceed, Midas Gold has promised their operations would directly employ 600 to 700 local workers with good-paying jobs. The expected annual payroll is estimated at more than \$42 million. To be clear, our workers need these jobs. Weathering the COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy for our community, as I'm sure you know.

Mining operations in the 21st Century must take environmental damage into account with all their operations, and I believe this is exactly what Midas plans to do. I implore you to take a serious look at the Alternative 2 plan and think of the good it could do for our community. We need to get our people back to work, and that's what approving Midas Gold's plan will do.

Regards,

Jad Holloway
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