



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** May 25, 2017

Dear Interested Party,

The Forest Service is seeking scoping comments for the proposed Stibnite Gold project on the Krassel Ranger District of the Payette National Forest and the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. The scoping document provides more detailed information about the project and is available along with other project information on the project's webpage at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/payette/StibniteGold>. Public meetings have been scheduled to provide additional opportunities to learn about the project, ask questions, or provide comments:

- June 27, 2017, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Ashley Inn, Cascade, Idaho
- June 28, 2017, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Payette Forest Supervisor's Office, McCall, Idaho
- June 29, 2017, 1:00 – 3:00 and 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Holiday Inn Express and Suites (Airport), Boise, Idaho

The Payette National Forest is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental effects from: (1) Approval of the "Stibnite Gold Project Plan of Restoration and Operations" (Plan) submitted by Midas Gold Idaho, Inc. in September 2016, to occupy and use National Forest System (NFS) lands for operations associated with open-pit mining and ore processing; and (2) related amendments to the Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Payette Forest Plan, 2003) and/or the Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Boise Forest Plan, as amended in 2010).

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will cooperate on the preparation of the EIS and evaluate its content to ensure that the EIS can be adopted by the USACE to support an eventual decision to either issue, issue with conditions, or deny a Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for the Plan. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will cooperate on the preparation of the EIS and evaluate its content to ensure that the EIS can be adopted in support of the decision-making process for issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit under Section 402 of the CWA.

The project area is located in the upper East Fork South Fork Salmon River drainage approximately 44 air miles northeast of the city of Cascade and three miles east of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Valley County, Idaho. Operations would impact approximately 500 acres of patented mining claims owned or controlled by Midas Gold, approximately 1,500 acres of Federal public lands comprised of adjacent NFS lands administered by the Payette National Forest in the historic Stibnite Mining District, and two supporting-infrastructure corridors located primarily in the Boise National Forest.

The Forest Service is contacting interested individuals, groups, and agencies to make them aware of the project and to gather pertinent feedback. This 45-day scoping period is initiated by publication of the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS, expected to be published in the *Federal Register* on or about June 2, 2017. To be most helpful, please submit your scoping comments by



Dear Interested Party,

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July 17 (or within 45 days of the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register should it publish on a date other than June 2, 2017), and make your comments as specific as possible.

To subscribe to this project electronically, go online to the project website listed above. On the project website, you will see a box titled "Get Connected" on the right hand side of the page. Click on "Subscribe to Email Updates." When you click on that item, you will be prompted to provide your e-mail address and select a password in the GovDelivery program. When you have logged in, you will be able to manage your account by subscribing to projects by Forest, District, project type, or project purpose. You will also be able to change your e-mail address and password. If you no longer wish to follow the project(s), simply delete your subscription. Once you are subscribed, you will receive all project information via e-mail, unless you request hard copies.

To submit comments using the web form select "Comment/Object on Project" under "Get Connected" on the right panel of the project website. Only those who subscribe to the GovDelivery mailing list or submit comments will receive future correspondence on this project. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, without an associated name and address, receiving further correspondences concerning these projects will not be possible.

Comments submitted via webform are preferred and can be submitted from the project website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/payette/StibniteGold>. Written comments may be sent to: Payette National Forest, ATTN: Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom - Stibnite Gold EIS, 500 N. Mission St. Bldg 2, McCall, ID 83638, via email with a subject line reading "Stibnite Gold EIS Scoping Comment" to [comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us), or via facsimile (FAX) to 1-208-634-0744. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Comments received in response to this request will be available for public inspection and will be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. Comments received in response to this request will also be available for public inspection on the "Public Comment/Objection Reading Room" on the project webpage.

For further information on this project, please contact Brian Harris, Public Affairs Officer, at 1-208-634-0784 or [bdharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:bdharris@fs.fed.us). Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,



KEITH B. LANNOM  
Forest Supervisor