

Idaho Statesman

Publication Name:

Idaho Statesman

Publication URL:

idahostatesman.com

Publication City and State:

Boise, ID

Publication County:

Ada

Notice Popular Keyword Category:

Notice Keywords:

stibnite

Notice Authentication Number:

202008170821070260396**2861618979**

Notice URL:

[Back](#)

Notice Publish Date:

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Notice Content

Opportunity to Comment on Project-specific Plan Amendments associated with the Proposed Stibnite Gold Project The Payette National Forest has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project. This document was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA); the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), 36 CFR 218; and all other applicable law, regulation, and policy. The DEIS considers approval of a plan of operations for mining, either as submitted by Midas Gold Idaho, Inc. or as reasonably modified to protect National Forest System (NFS) resources. The proposed project is located on NFS lands that are open to mineral entry on the Payette National Forest (PNF), Krassel Ranger District, and Boise National Forest (BNF), Cascade Ranger District. Components of the proposed project include the following: three open mine pits; ore processing facilities; development rock storage facilities; a tailings storage facility; a water treatment facility; access and haul roads; electrical transmission lines; and various other support facilities. The potentially affected area for the proposed project includes approximately 3,500 acres on federal, state, and private lands located in Valley County, Idaho. Some of the proposed mining operations would be inconsistent with applicable Forest Plan standards; therefore, project-specific amendments to the PNF and BNF Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP) would be required. The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS that was published on June 5, 2017 (82 FR 25759), indicated the possible need for plan amendments to address inconsistencies with Forest Plan standards, but the amendments that would be needed were not identified at that time. With completion of the DEIS, this legal notice serves as the public notification of information for the amendments, as required in the 2012 planning rule (36 CFR 219.13(b)(2) and 36 CFR 219.16(a)(2)). The proposed plan amendments are expected to be approved in the decision document approving the Stibnite Gold Project and only apply to the project (36 CFR 219.14 paragraphs (a) and (c)). The details of the proposed amendments and which substantive requirements of 36 CFR §§ 219.8 through 219.11 are likely to be directly related to the amendments can be found in Appendix A of the DEIS. As indicated in the NOI, the Forest Supervisor of the PNF has been delegated authority for the decision related to the Stibnite Gold Project on both the PNF and the BNF; however, for the project-specific plan amendments, the Forest Supervisor of the PNF will be the responsible official for any needed amendments to the PNF LRMP, and the Forest Supervisor of the BNF will be the responsible official for any needed amendments to the BNF LRMP. The decision to approve the proposed project will be subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR part 218 Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments, as defined in §218.2, regarding the proposed project and project-specific plan amendments during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection per §218.5. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to

ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request per §218.24(b)(8). As provided by 36 CFR 219.59(b), the administrative review process of 36 CFR 218 also applies to the project-specific plan amendments. Information about the proposed project or activity, including the DEIS and associated plan amendments is available on the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50516>. How to Comment and Timeframe The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS in the Federal Register on August 14, 2020. The opportunity to provide comments to establish eligibility to object under 36 CFR 218 usually ends 45 days following that date; however, the responsible official has decided to extend the comment period by 15 days leading to a total of 60 days following publication of the NOA, given the level of documentation associated with this project. This legal notice serves as the public notification of information for the proposed plan amendments, as required in the 2012 planning rule (36 CFR 219.13(b)(2) and 36 CFR 219.16(a)(2)). Mailed or electronic comments will be accepted. Electronic submission of comments is encouraged. Mailed comments must be submitted to: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor, 500 N. Mission Street, Building 2, McCall, Idaho 83638-3805. Please be advised that our offices are minimally staffed in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the responsible official is not accepting hand-delivered comments at this time. Electronic comments must be submitted in a common digital format such as plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc, .docx) or PDF (.pdf) to <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=50516>. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received online via the public reading room at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/ReadingRoom?project=50516>. Due to current health precautions associated with COVID-19, the Forest Service is providing alternative measures for conducting public engagement. A Virtual Public Meeting Room using the open house format has been designed to conduct public engagement and solicit feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project DEIS. The Virtual Public Meeting Room will be available on August 24, 2020 at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50516&exp=meetingnoticeinfo> and will remain open through the public comment period. Instructions for entry to the Virtual Public Meeting Room will be included in the link. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained from: Brian Harris, Payette Forest Public Affairs Officer, 208-634-6945, brian.d.harris@usda.gov.

[Back](#)