



# 10 THINGS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF STIBNITE

MY IDAHO. MY SUPPORT. MY STIBNITE.

Stibnite is one of the most historic mining districts in all of Idaho. A 2-hour drive Northeast of Cascade, the site is rich in minerals including gold, silver, antimony and tungsten. A lot has happened over this area's more than 100-year history. Here are a few of our favorite facts:

1. Mining first began in the Stibnite area in 1899 during the Thunder Mountain Gold Rush. Most of the early mining equipment was brought in by dog sled or on horses.
2. Stibnite is the primary ore of antimony, a very valuable mineral used to strengthen metals and make fire retardant. The region was named for the abundance of stibnite found in the area.
3. The Stibnite Mining District sits atop the Idaho Batholith, one of the signature features of Idaho's unique geology. The Idaho Batholith is nearly 14,000 square miles of granite, formed from the collision of the oceanic plate and the North American plate around 100 million years ago during the Cretaceous period.
4. People wanted to work at Stibnite so badly, one man even walked from Cascade to the site to see if he could find work. The manager of the mine was so impressed he gave him a job.
5. Supplies were air dropped to miners during the winter months because access to Stibnite was often completely blocked by snow.
6. During WWII antimony was so critical to the war effort that men were allowed to complete their military service at the mine site. Stibnite provided 90% of the antimony and 50% of the tungsten for the United States.
7. The first hospital in Valley County was built in Stibnite in the late 1940's and remained the only hospital in the county for many years.
8. During the height of Stibnite 1500 people called it home. There was a bowling alley, recreation hall and even an orchestra that performed monthly for dances. During the winter months there was also an ice rink and ski hill.
9. After the war years many of the homes at Stibnite were dismantled and moved to neighboring communities. You can still see many of them today in towns like McCall and Cascade.
10. During the sites history a handful of different companies mined in the area, the last being in the 1990's. Today Midas Gold Idaho is working to permit the site and properly restore the area.