



Stibnite Road closure only done during break-up season

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To the Editor:

It has come to my attention that there are some folks that have all of a sudden taken a big interest in the gate that has been put up temporarily on the Stibnite Road between Yellow Pine and Stibnite at the Big Creek turnout.

The gate is not there now and there is a picture being circulated of the gate that was there in the past three years or so just during the spring breakup.

The Stibnite road had not been plowed in the winter over the last 17 years that I have been here. Only when Midas Gold got a permit from the Forest Service to drill at the Stibnite Mine area has there been any attempt for upkeep of that road other than a once a year grading by the county.

Midas Gold now does all of the upkeep of that road year around, plowing, grading and rock removal at their expense. As well as emergency assistance on our other roads.

My understanding is that there was an agreement by Midas Gold to the Forest Service to avoid deterioration of the road during spring breakup, that is when snow is off the road until the road dries up enough to allow travel, that there be a temporary gate installed. The sign is put up by the county, which maintains the Stibnite Road.

It seems to me that some folks are going into orbit with their distrust of the Forest Service closing roads and Midas Gold is stuck in the middle with these folks going on with an anti-Midas campaign. I have been in Yellow Pine for 17 years now and certainly feel I have an interest in what is going on in my environment.

I have met with several Midas Gold employees from the workers to the management and I am impressed with their approach to mining the area. Now-a-days an environmental approach is needed, especially when it comes to the remote location of the Stibnite Mine area and these folks seem to have a good understanding of that.

I recently saw a remark that open pit mining is a scourge and must be stopped. Well, there is already an open pit mine there, just go and see it. I'm impressed with the Midas Gold plan of reclamation which no mines of the past were required to put into operation.

My hope is that the area will be restored or at least made better. Mines are needed if you want your electronics and the other toys in your life. Why not work with a company that is trying to include the communities and trying to make the area better?

Lorinne N. Munn, Yellow Pine