

**From:** Natalie Podgorski  
**To:** [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)  
**Subject:** Stibnite Gold EIS Scoping Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, July 20, 2017 11:48:33 AM

---

Dear Forest Supervisor Lannom,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project. I have been able to work with Midas Gold Idaho as a communications consultant work over the last several years. Throughout this time, I've learned about the project and the people who will bring it to life. I have complete confidence in the team and know that they will stay true to their word and restore the site.

I encourage you to adopt the company's Plan of Restoration and Operations as written.

Today, the Stibnite Gold Site is in desperate need of environmental remediation. The federal government tried to do some reclamation work in the area but unfortunately it didn't go nearly far enough. Fish still cannot swim past the Yellow Pine Pit, hundreds of tons of sediment are entering the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River from Blowout Creek and tailing piles from previous miners are leaching potentially hazardous minerals into the groundwater. Is this really how we want the area to stay? The harsh reality is the area will most likely stay as it is unless Midas Gold Idaho is able to move forward with its work. While Midas Gold Idaho is a mining company, I am so impressed by how they've prioritized reclamation in their plan. In fact, work has already started and will continue in parallel with construction and operations. The company is required to set all of the money aside for reclamation efforts before any mining can begin so the community can have peace of mind that the work will be done right.

What I find most impressive about Midas Gold Idaho is their commitment to the communities they are working in. The company has made a point to go out and actively seek feedback from the community on how to make the project better. Those suggestions can be seen throughout the plan, for example the company's proposal to use Burntlog Road for transportation to and from the site came directly from a concerned citizen. The company has also jumped in and donated thousands of dollars to build parks, support road maintenance and a variety of other community programs. Midas Gold Idaho has proven they are committed to doing right by the people who call Idaho home.

It is for these reasons, I hope you will adopt the proposed activities outlined by Midas Gold Idaho in the Plan of Restoration and Operations as the preferred alternative during the EIS process.

Sincerely,

Natalie Podgorski