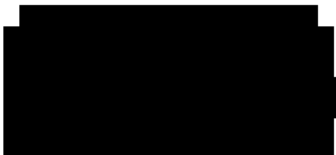


From: [Eric Jones](#)
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Stibnite Gold EIS Scoping Comment
Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 2:24:43 PM

Eric T. Jones


Payette National Forest
ATTN: Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom
Stibnite Gold EIS
500 N. Mission St.
McCall, ID 83638

Via electronic mail: comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us

-
Dear Mr. Lannom:

-
I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold EIS scoping, under the NEPA process, and as described in the Federal Register Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS ("Notice") published in the Federal Register in Volume 82, Number 106, page 25759 on Monday, June 5, 2017 under the Notices.

Please place my name on the project mailing list for all future announcements, decisions and project related public releases related to the USDA Forest Service and collaborating agencies analyses of the project (including any issuances related to Department of the Army permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act).

I have reviewed the Federal Register Notice and other documents and are familiar with the site history and project. As you are aware the extensive activity within and around the project area related to historic mining operations, development of a former town site as well as natural processes such as fires and high levels of erosion spanning over 100 years have resulted in significant degradation of many components of the natural environment. Excessive erosion, soil loss, and loss of fish passage as well as the potential release of metals from previously mined and processed, but improperly or incompletely reclaimed mineral materials are issues of concern to me.

I am aware of Midas Gold's extensive work on the site, including over 5-years of exploration, environmental investigations of site conditions and their efforts to interact with and obtain and consider community input in planning and design of their proposed project.

We note in the Stibnite Gold Project Plan of Restoration and Operations that Midas Gold developed and considered a large number of alternatives for various project phases and components. I urge you to select the proposed activities as outlined in the Plan of Restoration and Operations as the preferred alternative during the EIS process and

approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold.

The project, as proposed effectively results in an increased employment for Valley County and the surrounding states, which in turn ; well thought out reclamation and environmental management; and a decreased dependence on foreign metal supplies that are vital to our countries independence.

I want to commend Midas Gold's efforts to ensure the most environmentally sound and practical access to the site through the proposed use of Burntlog Road. The trade-off studies described in Appendix G of their Plan of Restoration and Operations demonstrates this as the most reasonable and viable access for mine site redevelopment and restoration traffic. I support your decision to make this the preferred alternative during the project EIS alternative development stage.

We also are pleased to see that Midas has developed a novel way to bring fish back into the upper watersheds during operations not afterwards showing a commitment to restoration up front.

Sincerely,

Eric T. Jones