

To Concerned Payette National Forest Staff,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

After reading through the alternatives proposed by the USFS, Alt 5 seems unacceptable. If private industry is willing to take on past legacies, what will happen to the environmental legacies at Stibnite if there is no action? What resources will the U.S. Government dedicate to solving the water quality and fish passage problems if Alt 5 is selected? I worry no resources will be directed to the site and arsenic and antimony will continue leaching into the groundwater and salmon will continue to be blocked from their native spawning grounds. However, if the USFS selects Alternative 2 the site would get the environmental attention that it needs. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9).

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to continue to move the project forward and permit the site using alternative 2 as the guide.

I agree with these statements completely. Central Idaho needs jobs that pay a living wage badly. The cities and counties in central Idaho are also struggling. This project is will help save our communities.

Thank You,

Merle DeHaas

Name: Merle DeHaas