

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

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).

I urge you to accept Midas Gold's plan as outlined under alternative 2 and continue moving this project forward.

Best Wishes,

Name: Kendall Velder