

Dear Payette National Forest Supervisor,

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

Private industry is needed to restore the Stibnite Gold Project site. Unfortunately, the federal government attempted to restore the area but problems in the area still persist today. Midas Gold Idaho wants to restore the site through mining. The company has spent the last six years studying the environment of the site, gathering input from the community and carefully analyzing many options to mine and perform restoration work. I encourage you to adopt alternative 2 outlined in the DEIS as you evaluate the project moving forward. The plan is well thought out, practical and environmentally sound. Alternative 3 and 4 do not provide as many environmental impacts. They would put construction and mine traffic adjacent to miles of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, increasing the chance of spills, and move the tailings storage facility to more pristine habitat. Alternative 2 on the other hand will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water by reprocessing historic tailings (DEIS 4.9), improve productivity of fish species in the area by opening up access to more habitat upstream (DEIS 4.12), provide a net gain of 9.3 km of volitionally accessible intrinsic potential habitat for Chinook Salmon (table 4.12-29) and reprocess old tailings waste, would lead to long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9).

I am a long term resident of Idaho and a career miner. Mining has supported my family for four generations. I am a Mining Engineer with over 40 years of experience in operational, engineering, and technical positions. I am very familiar with the Stibnite Project and totally support their ideals, plans and approach to the project. Their efforts will correct legacy environmental mistakes and mishaps and will re-establish critical salmon habitat and reproductive environments. This project is good for Idaho and Idahoans as well.

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge you to now move forward and permit the mine using alternative 2 so Midas Gold can put Americans back to work.

My best,

Name: Steven Long