

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

As someone who lives near the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region, the health and wellbeing of the local environment and wildlife is very important to me—and the conditions at Stibnite have always been a cause for concern as far back as I remember. After reviewing Alternative 2 in their modified plan for restoration and operations for the proposed Stibnite Gold Project, I believe Midas Gold Idaho can help revitalize struggling fish populations.

As you probably know, mining operations at the Yellow Pine Pit from the late 1930s to the early 1950s required the Salmon River to be rerouted. After mining stopped in the 50s, the river was allowed to flow back through the abandoned mine pit, blocking passage for migrating fish to this day. There are also hundreds of tons of sediment flowing into the river each year, due to a dam that failed upstream at Blowout Creek, making it harder for local fish to thrive.

Midas Gold has included in its proposal for the Stibnite project the restoration of a permanent passage for migratory fish to navigate past the Yellow Pine Pit once mining operations are complete, opening up roughly six miles of new stream habitat for migratory fish like bull trout, steelhead, and salmon. In the interim, they will erect an innovative, fish-friendly tunnel using ambient lighting to ease the transition for fish at the entrance and exit.

This will allow local fish to connect with their historical spawning and nursing grounds for the first time in more than 80 years, something that will help revive struggling populations. According to the U.S. Forest Service's recent environmental impact statement, long-term access to historically blocked critical habitat would result in increased productivity (4. 12-33). Additionally, Midas Gold would repair the damage from the failed dam to permanently prevent over-sedimentation of the water.

The Stibnite-Yellow Pine area is long-overdue for some environmental restoration, and the Stibnite Gold Project is just the thing we need to make the necessary investments to clean up this part of the Salmon River while helping local fish recover from decades of being cut off from their historical spawning grounds. The sooner your agency approves Alternative 2 for the Stibnite Gold Project, the better.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,


PAMELA J. THIER