

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

I write to you today in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project and their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Midas Gold should be commended for their transparency and attention to safety, the economy, and the environment in their plan.

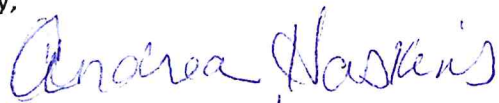
The Stibnite Gold Project is estimated to create hundreds of jobs at the mine and support many others in our community through vendor partnerships, bringing with it substantial positive economic impacts. The company plans to invest around \$85 million in direct state corporate income tax and licensing while prioritizing local suppliers and vendors. The approximately 500 jobs it will bring will also be open to Idahoans before anyone else, giving our residents opportunities to high paying jobs and salaries well above the state median.

Midas Gold Idaho has committed to not only invest in our economy, but to restore our environment as well. Past mining operations have left the area around the proposed site in disrepair for decades, particularly disrupting fish migration in the Salmon River. As examined in the EIS, Midas Gold has planned to use the Stibnite Gold Project to restore voluntary fish passage past the Yellow Pine pit, improve habitat and spawning grounds in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and Meadow Creek, and minimize the incidental take of fish named in the Endangered Species Act.

During operations, fish will have a temporary ability to reach the upper portions of the East Fork of the South Fork and Meadow Creek via a fish-friendly tunnel. This will provide immediate access for fish passage for the first time in 80 years. Once the project is complete, fish will have a permanent solution to swim to the headwaters via a completely rebuilt waterway through the backfilled Yellow Pine pit and access roughly 6 miles of existing, enhanced, and/or restored habitat. In Chapter 4, that activity by the company to remove barriers will improve overall productivity by increasing access to critical habitat, and improve access to feeding and refuge areas.

Although Midas Gold did not create the environmental problems seen at Stibnite, we thank Midas Gold for its commitment to restore the area as part of its strategic plan. Thank you for allowing me to comment on this very important project and I ask that you approve Midas Gold Idaho's Alternative 2 of their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations.

Sincerely,


Andrea Haskins