

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

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, influencing water quality and aquatic habitat. Fish have not been able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds for over 80 years. This needs to be addressed immediately.

The draft EIS your agency put out concludes solutions by the company will fix the environment. Notably for fish. In Chapter 4 it mentions that fish diversity and productivity will be increased by removing historical barriers (4.12.-39). This is an opportunity we cannot pass up on.

The company is also required to set aside all of the funds needed to properly restore the site in a special trust so the land will be restored no matter what happens to the company. Reclamation efforts have already started at the site. Midas Gold has planted thousands of trees and worked to reduce sediment-entering waterways near the site. To me, these actions prove the company is truly committed to restoring the site.

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge you to now move forward and support Alternative 2 recommended by Midas Gold Idaho.

Best wishes,

*Ben Florence*