

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

The issues at the Stibnite mine date back generations and continue to degrade the surrounding environment to this day. The Stibnite Gold Project as proposed by Midas Gold Idaho in Alternative 2 of their plan for restoration and operations would help address some of the worst problems there while redeveloping the site in an ecologically sustainable way. I ask that you please approve this alternative.

It's almost hard to know where to begin when discussing the issues at the Stibnite site. The water quality in parts of the Salmon River is abhorrent, with extremely high levels of antimony, arsenic, and other metals that make the water uninhabitable. There are also literally tons of sediment being deposited into the river each year due to a blown-out dam from decades ago that has led to ongoing erosion. This erosion has also dried out the wetlands and creeks upstream. And local fish are unable to swim upstream past the yellow pine pit to reach their native spawning grounds.

It is an ecological nightmare, and without the Stibnite Gold Project, many of these issues would just persist or worsen over time. According to the results of the Draft Economic Impact Statement (DEIS), it is not anticipated that soils in most of these areas would ever recover on their own. Moreover, the DEIS states, reclamation of historically disturbed areas could lead to improvements in the long-term productivity of the site that could help minimize the severity of climate change impacts resulting from warmer temperatures, decreased snowpack, lower stream flows, changes in wildfire patterns, and more.

We need to address these issues as soon as possible, and only Alternative 2 would allow us to do so. Alternatives 3 and 4 would both incur lengthy delays due to the increased technical challenges they would present, and Alternative 5 would essentially do nothing to fix the environmental problems at Stibnite at all.

Please support this project and approve Alternative 2 as quickly as you can.

Best wishes,

Darrell Cobb
