

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


As a concerned citizen, I would like to add my comment to the docket at U.S. Forest Service regarding the Stibnite Gold Project. This development would help address some of the long-term impacts of previous mining projects and restore a vital part of Central Idaho's ecosystem. I urge you to adopt Alternative 2 of Midas Gold's proposal and help ensure these benefits come to pass.

As you are no doubt aware, more than 80 years of mining developments over the years have created a multitude of problems at the Stibnite Mining District. Water quality is poor due to high levels of dangerous metals, local fish cannot access critical habitat due to the rerouting of the Salmon River generations ago, and many creeks and wetlands have dried out due to an ongoing erosion problem that has also dumped tons of sediment into the Salmon River.

Midas's Alternative 2 proposal would address each of these issues. Regarding the sedimentation and erosion issues, both of which came about as a result of a failed earthen dam in Blowout Creek, upstream from the Yellow Pine Pit, back in the mid-1960s. Since that dam failed, erosion has gotten significantly worse, leading to over-sedimentation of downstream waters and drying out the wetlands and creeks upstream. Midas Gold would fix this by installing drainage, repairing creek beds, and raising the water level.

Not only would this reduce sedimentation downstream, but it would revitalize the wetlands and streams upstream as well. According to your own agency's draft Environmental Impact Study, these efforts would lead to an increase in wetland functional units of 40% and an increase in stream functional units of 23%. This would be a tremendous improvement over the status quo.

Please help keep this project moving through the permitting process by adopting Alternative 2.

Sincerely, 
Hannah Schaefer