

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

Dear Supervisor Jackson,

I am submitting this comment letter in reference to Stibnite Gold Project. I appreciate the opportunity provided by the U.S. Forest Service to share my views on the project proposed by the Midas Gold Idaho.

As the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) makes clear and is well known and obvious, the remains of past mining activities continue to impact the environment in Central Idaho. Past steps to restore the area have been insufficient and incomplete. The mine pits remain visible as well as the desolation to water quality left by the 1965 dam failure at Blowout Creek. Doing nothing—Alternative 5 of the DEIS—in not a sensible option.

Instead, Alternative 2 for mining and reclamation by Midas Gold offers the best path forward. Alternative 2 directly addresses the environmental challenges left by legacy mining. I am especially supportive of the plan for the Yellow Pine pit, which will repair the decades-long disruption in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, and reopen an historic migratory path for spawning fish.

Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will also take steps to limit the sediment entering the watershed from Blowout Creek. This will improve water quality. In addition, Midas Gold's restoration will revegetate areas that have long remained barren.

We should not delay reclamation of the area any longer—either through Alternatives 3 or 4 – or by extending the comment period beyond 60 days. The DEIS and Midas Gold's plan is comprehensive. The Stibnite Gold Project should receive a green light as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David E Maxwell
175 North Shoreline Dr.
Warmlake Id 83611

