

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

To the U.S. Forest Service Supervisor:

Valley County could see environmental improvements and economic growth at the same time if Midas Gold's Alternative 2 for the Stibnite Mining District is approved by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

The USFS has clearly conducted an extensive review, reflected in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please allow the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) to move forward without further delay. 60 days is plenty of time to review the documents you have released online and made available by Midas Gold.

The Stibnite Gold Project construction and operations will provide hundreds of millions of dollars to Idaho's economy, support hundreds of jobs, and add new revenues at the state and local level. Every Idahoan will benefit one way or another.

Critically, the Stibnite Gold Project will also result in extensive environmental improvements. For decades, Idahoans and our environment have borne the consequences of legacy mine operations like heavy metals leach into groundwater and surface water. Fish are hurt by tons of unnatural sediment that are a result of a 1965 dam failure on the East Fork of Meadow Creek (Blowout Creek). The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River flows into a mining pit, leaving fish unable to reach spawning grounds in the upper Salmon.

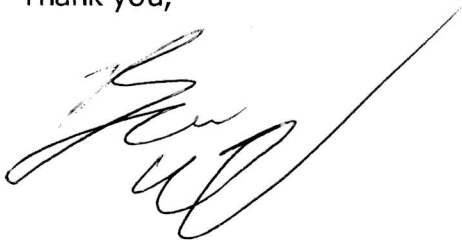
The plan by Midas Gold in Alternative 2 addresses each of these major environmental problems. See for instance, DEIS 4.9 highlights how the project will improve water quality and reduce levels of metals. DEIS 4.2-39 details how restoration of river connectivity will increase the populations and diversity of fish in the Salmon River ecosystem.

While the EIS reviews five potential courses of action, Alternative 2 is the best path forward. It improves on Alternative 1 and is more expedient than Alternatives 3 and 4. Alternative 5—leaving the legacy mining sites unrepaired—is not a reasonable option.

I recognize that the Stibnite Gold Project is a complex undertaking, but planning has been underway for years and the project has been extensively reviewed. Not just by regulators, but the public as well.

I encourage your office to approve Alternative 2 without again extending the comment period.

Thank you,



Barb 2018 @ HOF/USFS

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