

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I have reviewed the Alternative 2 and met with members of Midas Gold Idaho to better understand the company's plans for the Stibnite Gold Project. Below are my comments on the plan to be included in the comment period.

Salmon have been cut off from miles of high-mountain spawning grounds and rearing habitats since roughly 1938, when the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River (EFSFSR) was diverted around the Yellow Pine Pit. The only way for salmon to reproduce is by stocking them in Meadow Creek, where spawning occurs. We need to do better. As part of Midas Gold's proposal in Alternative Two, the company would design and install a fish passageway to help connect fish to their native spawning grounds for the first time in decades. The passageway would be built using best practices learned from successful examples used around the world. And it would be constructed before mining even starts. Once mining at the Yellow Pine Pit is complete, Midas Gold would begin full restoration of the river, creating a long-term solution for salmon to spawn upstream. In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the U.S. Forest Service found that removing these historical barriers to migration will help local fish populations by increasing productivity.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on the project. I am grateful for the virtual meeting room you created. It made learning about the project easy and gave me the tools I needed to submit meaningful comments within the 60-day timeframe. If I can do it, anyone can. I urge you to move forward with alternative two.

Sincerely,

Name: Diana McCoy