

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

To Concerned Payette National Forest Staff,

If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with the Stibnite Gold Project, they will reclaim an area impacted by historical mining, create hundreds of well-paying jobs, provide a huge boost to our economy in the process and make sure access to Idaho's backcountry is protected. It is a win-win for Valley County. We need to permit the project.

The Stibnite Gold Project will help to restore the environment in our region. Under alternative two, Midas Gold has prioritized restoration work so many of the efforts occur early in the project. For example, Midas Gold will build a fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit to provide access to native upstream habitat. The U.S. Forest Service's analysis in the DEIS (4.12-39) shows this could increase and improve overall productivity and even diversity among chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead.

The company is also required to set aside all of the funds needed to properly restore the site in a special trust so the land will be restored no matter what happens to the company. Reclamation efforts have already started at the site. Midas Gold has planted thousands of trees and worked to reduce sediment entering waterways near the site. To me, these actions prove the company is truly committed to restoring the site.

I have heard some say a 60-day comment period is not long enough but I disagree. You've given us plenty of time to review the DEIS and provide feedback. Additionally, Midas Gold has made itself available over the last several years to sit down with Idahoans and provide in-depth information on their plans.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and adopt Alternative two as the preferred alternative.

Thanks for your Consideration,



Todd Halder