

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

Payette National Forest Supervisor,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Midas Gold Idaho's Plan of Restoration and Operations. Over the last several years, I've had the opportunity to hear a handful of presentations on the Stibnite Gold Project, sit down with project staff and observe how the company has lived out its mission as it has grown. It is with this knowledge that I encourage you to permit the Stibnite Gold Project.

Midas Gold has made it clear reclamation efforts will start alongside operations. For example, before mining ever begins, fish will be reconnected to their native spawning groups upstream through a fish passageway. Eventually, the Yellow Pine Pit will be backfilled and the river can be permanently reconnected.

Analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and Steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.12-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased genetic diversity of isolated populations and productivity.

They have worked to find safe access routes to the site that keeps vehicles away from our precious waterways. Additionally, under alternative 2, the company decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8). Plus, the company is working hard to make sure Idahoans, like myself, can continue to have access to through the project site during construction and operations and make sure the backcountry stays open for all of us.

Midas Gold wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site. We should let them. Please permit the Stibnite Gold Project and continue to move this important project forward.

My best,



Zack Powers