

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I have reviewed the draft environmental impact statement on the proposed Stibnite Gold Project authored by the U.S. Forest Service and believe that Alternative 2 as reviewed by your agency and offered by Midas Gold provides the most effective solution for addressing the legacy problems at the Stibnite site. The U.S. Forest Service should select this option and enable this long-overdue project to begin.

Alternative 2 lays out an ambitious plan for redevelopment of the Stibnite mining site as well as reclamation and restoration of the surrounding environment. If approved, this restoration work could begin immediately, whereas with Alternatives 3 and 4, there would be a two-year delay—and Alternative 5 would mean continued inaction in the region, which is the worst possible scenario.

As part of their plan for restoration and operations, Midas Gold would help restore functional streams and wetlands that have been drying out and disappearing for decades, ever since a dam failure upstream from where the Salmon River crosses the Yellow Pine Pit. Because of that dam failure, erosion has become a serious problem, leading to tons upon tons of sediment entering the river downstream every year. Upstream, this erosion has drained the river, creeks, and streams in the valley, causing the wetlands to disappear.

Even though Blowout Creek, the site of this notorious failed dam, is not part of the site where the Stibnite Gold Project would operate, Midas Gold has plans to address the ongoing sedimentation and restore the impacted creeks and wetlands. In Alternative 2, it describes how they intend to install a rock drainage system beneath the site of the old dam and rebuild the stream channel to minimize sedimentation, all while raising the water level in the wetlands upstream so they are once again functional.

Based on the findings of the draft environmental impact statement, it is clear these restoration effort would greatly benefit the environment. In Appendix D, it states that Midas Gold's mitigation and restoration plans will offer a net gain of 346.5 wetland functional units, a 40% increase, and provide a net gain of 21,941 stream functional units, a 23% increase.

It is clear to see Midas Gold's proposed efforts will go a long way in fixing the environmental problems that have been present at Stibnite for years. Please help ensure this project begins as soon as possible by selecting Alternative 2.

Warm regards,

MARIC MATCINPAIN

