

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

Dear Sup. Jackson,

✕ The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River has been decimated by mining so I feel it is only fair for a mining company to pay for fixing it. Please approve the Midas Gold Stribnite project proposal so they, not taxpayers, will be responsible for the cost of cleaning up the river.

The problems with the Salmon River near Yellow Pine have been 100 years in the making. In all that time, Midas is the only mining company that has ever stepped up with a reasonable plan to clean up mining wastes and once again make the river a viable habitat for wild fish.

After examining the USFS environmental impact statement on the proposed project, I am excited about the benefits it will create. I especially like the part that provides a tunnel through which fish can migrate to upstream spawning grounds. As a short-term fix, this will get fish moving again, preserving their numbers until the new mining operation is completed. At that time, the river will be restored to its natural flow instead of being blocked by the old drainage pit. For the first time in decades, wild Idaho fish will be able to navigate the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River.

The EIS, in Chapter 4, specifically states that Midas' plans will benefit both fish diversity and productivity. That is exactly what we need. With all the other challenges facing wild salmon and other fish that migrate between ocean and inland rivers – dams, chemical runoff, habitat and streambed destruction, etc. – making this stretch of the Salmon River a productive fishery again is, to me, on its own enough reason to approve the project.

We don't need to extend the comment period, we just need to get this project started. I strongly urge you to approve the Midas Gold Alternative 2 proposal ASAP.

Sincerely,

Mike + Donna Flamm

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