

Dear Ms. Jackson,

It is with great pleasure that I write to the U.S. Forest Service to encourage you to permit the proposed activities outlined by Midas Gold in Alternative 2 during this public input process.

Midas Gold is very aware of the water quality concerns at site and has been sampling it for years. They've found very high arsenic and antimony levels in certain areas, in some cases 700 times worse than what is considered safe. To address these issues, the company will remove legacy tailings and other waste that cause this issue. Overall, Alternative 2 seems to cover every risk factor possible; it improves upon the company's original 2016 plan, which they adjusted following feedback, and it is superior to Alternatives 3 and 4, which have more safety concerns and could cause delays. And of course, it is better than Alternative 5, which is to do nothing; we cannot afford that approach after all these years.

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.

Best Wishes,

Name: Ronald Smith