

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

Dear USFS,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of Midas Gold Idaho's public permitting process.

The U.S. Forest Service's online meeting room has made it easy to review the document and comment within the 60-day timeframe. Looking at the document, there is a clear advantage to Alternative 2 compared to the other options. According to a figure in Chapter 4, Hanger Flats pit lake would fill by year 14 of operations in Alternative 2. Under Alternative 1, it would take 19 years. The faster the lake fills up, the faster groundwater levels will recover around the lake. Alternative 3 and 4 would both delay the project by 2 years and cost substantially more. Alternative 3 would also place the tailings storage facility in a pristine reach of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. While Alternative 4 would put mine traffic to site right next to the river. And, Alternative 5 would keep this brownfield site just as it is, with no environmental clean-up or economic stability.

Midas Gold wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site. We should let them. The Forest Service has given meaningful time to review the document and comment. Further extensions are not necessary and will only hurt Idahoans by delaying the benefits of the project. Please permit Alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project as outlined in the DEIS.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Hutt

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