

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

Dear Supervisor Jackson,

The environmental damage caused by legacy mining in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine area is a disgrace. I totally support the proposal from Midas Gold to reopen mining in the district but this time do it right, in a manner that will fix the problems old-time mining techniques created.

The ecosystem that exists around the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River has been seriously degraded by roughly 100 years of careless mining. Midas Gold has committed to clean up the more than 10 million tons of waste rock and tailings that have been abandoned on the site. They would treat all that toxic material and store it in a way that ensures it will not continue to leach unhealthy minerals and chemicals into the streams and groundwater, as it does today.

Even now, before Midas has been able to conduct any mining operations in the area themselves, they have already improved the natural environment by reclaiming dozens of acres of land, recycling 4,000 lbs. of waste, and planting more than 55,000 trees. This shows me that Midas is a company that takes their environmental responsibilities seriously. I believe we can depend on them to do what they have pledged to do, and also to follow all the environmental regulations that will govern their business in the region. If only the previous mining companies that worked here had been required to follow the rules that are in place today.

I have looked at the Forest Service environmental study, which specifically lists a number of major environmental benefits the Midas Gold plan would provide. I have also read about the different alternatives Midas has proposed and believe the second one is by far the most reasonable. It would not only do the most good of the different plans, it would also shorten the length of the project by two years. It is the only way to go.

I would like to see this project approved soon; I am convinced the environment of the Stibnite-Yellow Pine area depends on it. I hope you will move the Forest Service approval process forward as rapidly as you can.

Thanks,

*Steve Buratto*  
STEVEN Buratto