

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

Dear Ms. Jackson:

I've lived in Valley County my whole life, and for so many years, what's left over of the legendary Stibnite Mining District has been a source of both pride in our history and frustration with its environmental impact. I appreciate that there is now a company that wants to fix the situation and that I have an opportunity to voice my opinion. Please let the record show that I am among the many local citizens who fully support the Midas Gold Alternative 2 proposal.

We owe a lot to the Stibnite Mining District as local communities were founded in the early 1900s to service the mine. During World War II, our miners played an important part in supporting the war effort. But mining practices were not as sound as they are now, so we have been left with blight for generations—poor water quality, fish blocked from moving upstream to their spawning grounds, legacy materials deposited everywhere. Cleaning it up and restoring the area would be a huge and costly effort, so no one has done anything about it for decades.

Along comes Midas Gold. In 2016, they released a Plan of Restoration and Operations (which is also known as Alternative 1) and then sought input from the community and government and made an updated and improved version that is Alternative 2. This plan seems to meet all of our needs and the science and data informing it are meticulous.

First of all, I like that Midas Gold is committed to building a fish tunnelway to help the salmon and trout return to the spawning grounds that were blocked years ago. They are going to remove the waste materials and sediment and clean up the water. And they are trying to minimize the impact and keep air quality around their operations safe.

Second, the economic impact is unquestionably worthwhile to our region. It may very well create growth the likes of which we haven't seen in our communities since the original days of Stibnite. They're prioritizing local vendors and supporting training opportunities for local residents throughout the life of its project by working directly with schools, community colleges and the Idaho Department of Labor. The project will yield tens of millions of dollars of new economic activity and tax revenues to help us improve our local infrastructure.

I cannot imagine a much better set up than what Alternative 2 proposes. And after so many years of nothing being done whatsoever, I would prefer to have Midas Gold get started as soon as possible. They clearly have a good plan, they have been responsive to residents, and they are ready to go. Please support Alternative 2 so we can begin benefitting from this great project. Thank you for considering my perspective.

Cordially,

Phebe J. Egbert
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