

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

Dear Supervisor Jackson:

As you well know, the former Stibnite Mining District has long faced a series of unique challenges from industrial activity dating back to the 1800s. For the past 80 years, it has been largely dormant, but the scars remain from old mining. The East Fork of the South Fork of Idaho's Salmon River has been left to pour into an abandoned mine pit, and the ecosystem has been upended, with salmon and trout cut off from accessing their spawning areas. A failed dam and continued deforestation have resulted in additional erosion and sedimentation of the fish habitat. And millions of tons of tailings have been left behind that could further contaminate the water with dangerous materials like arsenic.

It's time we solved these problems, and I am happy to say that Midas Gold's Alternative 2 proposal is the real deal. I've paid attention to their work, and it is clear that if they cannot do it, no one will.


I'm very pleased that their Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) is the safest possible solution to handling the waste materials. It will be built in a granite mountain, which surrounds 90% of the perimeter of the facility. The other 10% of the perimeter will have an embankment and 65 million tons of coarse rockfill in order to prevent seepage. Eventually, the tailings themselves will consolidate, creating another layer of containment. Its safety standards double that required by the state of Idaho.

Midas will also restore channel and floodplain corridors that will be separated from the tailings with a geosynthetic liner to prevent the surface water from contamination. Additionally, they are building a fish tunnel to reconnect the salmon and trout with their natural spawning area. And they will repair the sediment build up left from the damage at Blowout Creek and reprocess old tailings there.

These are all great solutions and give me full confidence in the project moving forward. I hope it gives you enough reason to support Alternative 2, as well, because I know many residents are looking forward to the economic benefits, including 500 new jobs and tens of millions of dollars in new business activity and state and local taxes.

If you approve this mine, know that local residents are behind you—in fact, there are eight communities in Midas Gold's community agreement program. We have waited generations for a solution this good; please don't let this opportunity pass. Thank you.

With Gratitude,

  
Lisa M. Laxadup