

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

Dear Sup. Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Midas Gold Stibnite/Yellow Pine mining proposal. I want to voice my support for this beneficial plan.

A century of irresponsible mining has left the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River in a terrible state. Fish can no longer reach crucial spawning grounds in the headwaters of the river, dangerous chemicals and old mining wastes pollute water and soil alike, and the wetlands that are critical to habitat and good water quality have been decimated.

It would cost taxpayers millions of dollars to fix all the environmental damage mining companies have done to the Stibnite/Yellow Pine ecology. Or we can let another mining company – a modern business that knows what they are doing – go in there and fix it for us, for free.

Actually that's not correct. It wouldn't be free; they would pay us to clean up the river and soil. That pay would come in the form of new tax revenues and construction capital invested in Idaho.

One of my favorite parts of the Midas plan is the solution for the EFSFSR salmon runs. At the end of the project they would restore the river flow to allow salmon and trout to migrate the way they used to a hundred years ago, but instead of waiting until the end, Midas would construct a water-filled tunnel to give fish access to spawning areas right away.

That's good for the fish and demonstrates the innovative thinking that underpins the Midas Gold plan. I can see why the environmental impact statement done by the Forest Service gives this project such high marks.

If we wait too long we run the risk of losing this project. I urge the Forest Service to end the comment period on time and grant approval right away.

Yours truly,



Jenkins, DEREK M