

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,


Wetlands are an important part of a healthy ecosystem, providing crucial habitat and also serving as natural filters that help remove pollutants from the water. Midas Gold will restore a lot of wetland acreage that has been negatively impacted by past mining operations, if the USFS allows them to move forward with their proposed plan for the Stibnite district. I am writing to respectfully ask you to give them that consent.

The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River has clearly been damaged by 100 years of mining, but the wetlands surrounding it in Valley County have suffered too. To me, the major problem is the old tailing piles and waste dumps that were never cleaned up when other mining companies stopped operating. They contain dangerous chemicals, including arsenic and other minerals, that leach into groundwater, ruining wetlands' water quality.

Midas Gold's plan alt. 2 would fix that by picking up and reprocessing legacy tailings, then storing them in a safe manner, as should have been done years ago. Alt. 2 would increase wetland functional units by 40%, as documented in the USFS DEIS. In addition to restoring more wetlands than plan alternatives 3 and 4, alt. 2 would also speed up the process by as much as two years. Alt. 2 is obviously the way to go.

We are blessed to live in a beautiful state with abundant outdoor resources. I think the Payette Forest and the other areas surround it are a treasure. But we cannot just enjoy these resources, we have to protect them too, to ensure they will be around for future generations of Idahoans. Please approve the alt. 2 plan and let Midas Gold get on with restoring Valley County wetlands.

Yours truly,


STAN BURATTO