

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


I am writing to express my views on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the Stibnite Gold Project is compelling for many reasons and it should be approved by the US Forest Service to proceed in the permitting process.

I am a vendor who has worked with Midas Gold for some time now. It is important for the agency to recognize what this company has done already for the communities of Idaho. In addition to the hundreds of jobs they will create, they have already helped businesses like mine. I have experienced that Midas Gold Idaho is devoted to their role as good corporate citizen and stands behind initiatives that support education, the environment and community health.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9). This would be a huge win for the site because today arsenic and antimony levels far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Midas Gold's water treatment during operations will further lower levels of these metals in the river and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. And fish still are not able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds. When fish are reconnected to more habitat upstream, 4.2-39 of the DEIS shows it will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations. This area needs to be remediated and Midas Gold has a plan to do it the right way.

Idahoans need to see the benefits of the Stibnite Gold Project come to life. The comment period should be kept to 60 days, so the process can continue to move forward. Therefore I would like to encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select the modified plan of restoration and operations (Mod- PRO) Midas Gold Idaho presented, known as Alternative 2 in the draft Environmental Impact Statement, and permit the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the end.