



WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE.

500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

Payette National Forest,

As an employee of a local company, I am proud to welcome Midas Gold Idaho into our state and proud to support the Stibnite Gold Project. I hope you will take the time to consider my comments on why you should move to permit the project.

The study of the Stibnite Gold Project brought to light the environmental conditions existing at Stibnite because of past operators. Arsenic levels in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River are far beyond safe standards. If Alternative 5 is selected, how will USFS address these legacies impacting the waters of Idaho? Who will pay to provide permanent and volitional fish passage? No one has stepped up to clean the site yet and I find it highly unlikely another opportunity like the Stibnite Gold Project will come around. Midas Gold has presented plans to improve water quality and fish habitat under Alternative 2. Section 4.12-39 of the DEIS shows reconnecting fish to more habitat upstream will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations. We cannot let the site continue to suffer.

My company, Western State CAT, has worked with Midas Gold for several years and we've seen firsthand their commitment to the community. To date, Midas Gold has spent over \$89 million in Idaho by prioritizing local vendors and contractors. We want to see companies like this stay in Idaho.

Please permit the Stibnite Gold Project under Midas Gold's preferred alternative, alternative 2.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Bettencourt', written in a cursive style.

Mike Bettencourt

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor