

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

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

As someone who lives nearby, I would like to see the Stibnite mining district redeveloped in the safest, most environmentally protective way possible. Without a doubt, that is Alternative 2 of Midas Gold Idaho's proposal for the Stibnite Gold Project. I encourage you to approve this option and allow this project to begin.

Under Alternative 2, access roads to the and around the site would be unquestionably safer than the ones proposed in Alternative 4. This is something even your own agency's Draft Environmental Impact Statement confirms. The routes proposed under Alternative 4 would cross more areas associated with landslides, rockfalls, and avalanches than those proposed in Alternative 2, according to chapter 4.2.7 of the impact statement.

Moreover, the access roads suggested under Alternative 2 would ensure less interaction with normal day-to-day traffic and reduce the amount of runoff and sedimentation into local waterways. These are all critically important factors to prevent any further harm to the local environment as operations move forwards.

When it comes to safety, Midas Gold has a stellar track record and vast experience handling the kinds of hazardous materials involved in any mining project. Another finding of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was that a large volume release into the environment at or around the mine site and off-site facilities would be unlikely based on the infrastructure planned to store and manage hazardous materials.

This solution is the right one for Central Idaho. Please approve Alternative 2 as soon as you can.

Sincerely,

Ed Branson