

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

Dear Supervisor Jackson:

First, I wish to extend my thanks to the U.S. Forest Service for your thorough development of the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and for making this extensive documentation readily available online.

I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to approve Alternative 2 for Midas Gold's proposal for a mining project in Valley County in central Idaho. Alternative 2 offers improvements over Alternative 1, does not involve the delays inherent in other Alternatives, and is clearly a better option than leaving the site without improvements.

Alternative 2 is the option that best provides for environmental protection and reclamation, while enabling job creation and economic benefits that will come with the project.

As an outdoorsman, I want to call special attention to the DEIS findings concerning fisheries and fish habitats (4.12-39), specifically their increased productivity and diversity. Alternative 2 would restore fish passages, extending the habitat of fish populations and providing renewed access to spawning grounds.

Notably, riparian reparation would enable salmon to reach the headwaters of the Salmon River for the first time in decades. Numerous migratory and anadromous fish, including steelhead and bull trout, would benefit from newly enabled passages that expand river access and enable fish to reach cooler waters at higher elevations.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest, to move forward with approving Alternative 2 for this project without further delay or extension of the 60-day comment period.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Brad Simpkins

