

Payette National Forest Supervisor,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the Draft EIS period for the Stibnite Gold Project.

I am impressed by Midas Gold's plans to clean up water quality conditions at the site by removing sediment and old materials blocking the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Today, steelhead and Chinook salmon cannot access spawning grounds because they are blocked by an abandoned mining pit. Midas will address this issue before mining even begins – reconnecting fish for the first time in more than 80 years. The company will build a fish passageway in the short term and eventually restore full access to 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of fish spawning habitat above the Yellow Pine pit. If we do not allow Midas Gold to move forward with their plans, it is highly unlikely anyone else will provide the funds needed to reconnect fish to this currently lost habitat.

I would like to thank the U.S. Forest Service for providing the opportunity, and sufficient time, to comment on this important project's permitting process. I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative 2.

Yours, Brian Hines

Name: Brian Hines