

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

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. I strongly believe that Midas Gold can play an important part in addressing the continued degradation of our natural environment, and I hope that my letter helps to advance the approval process.

Before learning about the Stibnite Gold project, I never would have thought that a mining company could have a positive environmental influence. I have lived in Idaho all of my life, and I have seen firsthand just how badly our nature has been treated. It is inexcusable that decades after the last mining companies left Stibnite, waste from a abandoned mine pits continues to pollute our water and our wildlife. Midas wants to change that.

I was pleased to learn that unlike other companies, Midas Gold designed their project to minimize environmental harm. For example, in Alternative 2, their preferred alternative Midas Gold made several important updates to its development rock storage facilities to reduce impacts to salmon habitat and to preserve more areas in the valley for wetland restoration. In fact the draft Environmental Impact Statement states in Appendix D that mitigation plans offer a net gain of 346.5 wetland functional units and represents a 40% increase. (Appendix D, CMP Table 8-2).

Beyond that, Midas Gold has promised to go out of their way to undo past harm. If the Stibnite Gold Project is approved, most of their work would be done on land that is already disturbed, which would be restored upon completion. They would also restore salmon migration routes and prevent further pollution of waterways by cleaning up tailings from older operations. According to the DEIS, their solutions in Alternative 2 to remove legacy tailings and waste will improve water quality in Meadow Creek Valley. (Ch. 4, 4.12 103-104)

If mining can return to Stibnite in a responsible and sustainable way, then I believe that it would be foolish to turn down an opportunity to create jobs and strengthen our economy. For these reasons, I encourage you to approve Alternative 2 and Midas Gold's modified Plan of Restoration and Operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Brunson".