

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

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to develop the Stibnite mine and restore the area around it to help address longstanding environmental issues left over from a different era of mining. I hope that you will do what you can to support this proposed project moving forward by approving Alternative 2 of Midas Gold's proposal, which was recently examined by the U.S. Forest Service's draft Environmental Impact Statement.

This draft EIS found that Alternative 2 has clear advantages over the other analyzed "solutions." It is both more economically feasible than Alternatives 3 and 4 and more environmentally beneficial. Both 3 and 4 would incur greater costs and time delays, particularly during construction, while Alternative 5 would not yield any environmental benefits. Alternative 2 is the only solution that makes sense.

In addition, Alternative 2 is just the safer option. Under this plan, Midas Gold would pick up, reuse, reprocess, and properly store millions of tons of old mining tailings and waste rock that is currently sitting out in Meadow Creek Valley. The project would also call for the construction of a state-of-the-art facility to store these materials so that they no longer come in contact with the water supply and degrade the quality of the Salmon River.

Moreover, Alternative 2 would keep this facility within the existing project area while Alternative 3 would place it in a currently pristine reach of the Salmon River that is partially on the site of an ancient landslide area. Meanwhile, the draft EIS found that the underlying bedrock for the tailings storage facility site in Alternative 2 is more than sufficiently competent to support the proposed structures.

For the safest, most viable, and environmentally beneficial solution to address the issues at the Stibnite mine, I urge you to approve Alternative 2 of Midas Gold's plan.

Best regards,



Ron Butler