

Dear Ms. Jackson,

Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Project presents Idaho, particularly rural Idaho, with a huge economic and environmental opportunity. I am writing to encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible. My husband and I call Donnelly and Eagle Idaho our home. We spend the warmer months in Donnelly, and are very hopeful this project gets approval.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. I have taken a fair amount of time to educate myself on the proposed project. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Why would we not hope for someone to take corrective action? Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess these tailings, left behind by previous mining company operations. They are the ONLY folks who have a plan to reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water- please see (DEIS 4.9). This would be a huge win for the site because today arsenic and antimony levels far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Midas Gold's water treatment during operations will further lower levels of these metals in the river and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions, according to (DEIS 4.9-70). Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. And fish still are not able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds. When fish are reconnected to more habitat upstream, This area needs to be remediated and Midas Gold has a plan to do it the right way.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the proposed plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider and appropriately weigh the positive benefits Midas Gold will have on Idaho. Approval of Midas Gold operations, specifically Alternative two, truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Shonnia Ward

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