

To Concerned Payette National Forest Staff,

I am very discouraged by the propaganda put forth by Midas Gold in conducting form letters and mass mailings to simplify the dEIS on the Stibnite Gold Project. Having been raised in McCall all of my life I see little or no public gain by allowing an open pit mine in the middle of Idaho's precious backcountry. I fully understand that the previous mining done in this region has left it scarred and we are still dealing with the impacts of that. But allowing an even bigger operation to come in and stir up any and all healing that has been done to this patch of Earth, to me does not seem like the right path. I know Midas claims it will restore the water supply to healthier levels than they are at right now and they plan to fix the damages left by the previous mine, but history tells us how this will end up. Companies like Midas typically "bankrupt" at the end of these projects, pull all of their resources out and basically disappear from existence, leaving us the tax payers and people who live here dealing with the ramifications once again. The recent Star News article about the receiving "new" investment money, sends a Red Flag to me, that Midas Gold does not have the backing to guarantee it will be able to fund a massive restoration program once they have extracted the minerals they seek.

I would request that the United States Forest Service do an independent study on the cost of restoration on a project of this magnitude. I would be surprised if the restoration costs would not be greater than the overall value of the material this company is seeking to extract. With no guarantee that the filter systems and re-routing of streams and lakes would keep the toxic chemicals out of our watershed system.

The study of the Stibnite Gold Project brought to light how it has used the environmental conditions existing at Stibnite because of past operators, as justification to strip away more of the Earth and risk giant exposure to fish and wildlife in the name of "restoration".

Thank you for reviewing my comments. Again, I urge you, DO NOT permit Midas Gold's plan to establish an open pit mine in Idaho's backcountry.

Best Wishes,

Cheyenne Pietri

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