

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

Dear Permitting Officials,

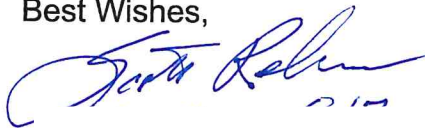
I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

Given the history of the region, I was a bit skeptical when I first heard about this project, but it is clear that Midas is going out of their way to put environmental safety and restoration front and center. For example, according to the DEIS, "it is not anticipated that soils in most of these areas would recover naturally." However, Midas Gold can change the future of the site. The company is already composting and has further plans to help soils recover throughout the life of the project. After looking at the tools provided by the USFS, I feel strongly that Alternative 2 is the best option moving forward. It addresses the purpose and need of the agencies in a manner that provides environmental advantage and economic feasibility over the other analyzed alternatives. With so much promise for the site's future, I hope Alternative 5 is removed from the table. There is finally an opportunity to restore the site and it is an opportunity that shouldn't be passed up.

The fact that fish haven't been able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds for 80+ years is a huge reason to move this project forward. Midas Gold will reconnect fish during construction by building a special fish passage and by the time the project is done they will restore the natural flow of the river so fish are permanently reconnected. Again a win for Idaho!

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. We need to move this project ahead after the 60-day comment period. Alternative Two truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Nelson", with a date "2/12" written below it.