

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

After years of neglect, it is time for something to be done about the destruction in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region. Having taken the time to review the proposal from Midas Gold Idaho, I would like to offer my comments in support of Alternative 2 as presented by this company and examined by the U.S. Forest Service's draft environmental impact statement.

Midas Gold Idaho has put the environment front and center in its plan for developing the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region, and has already begun cleaning up the area and addressing longstanding problems by planting tens of thousands of trees, recycling waste materials, and investing in improving road conditions. Their plan in Alternative 2 will take these efforts to the next level.

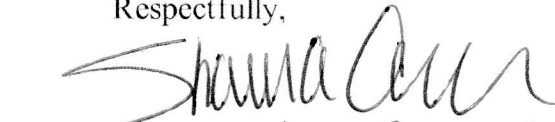
Due to a failed dam from long before Midas Gold Idaho showed interest in this area, hundreds of tons of sediment are seeping into the surrounding waterways every year, making it harder for fish and aquatic wildlife to live, find food, and procreate—while also draining the wetlands. Midas Gold Idaho has explained how they will address this by installing a rock drain beneath the site of the failed dam and rebuilding the stream to prevent excess sediment from entering the river.

Not only will this help address the sediment issue, but by raising the water level, the wetlands that have long since dried out will once again be functional, supporting all kinds of wildlife. In your own agency's draft environmental impact statement, it was found that Midas Gold Idaho's mitigation plan will add over 345 "functional units" of wetland, for a 40 percent increase to what is there today.

Alternative 2 is the right solution to fix the issues in the Stibnite-Yellow Pine region while also providing new job opportunities and economic benefits for surrounding communities. Whereas other solutions like Alternatives 3 and 4 would result in lengthy delays, Alternative 2 would mean environmental restoration could begin as soon as approval is given. The last thing we need is Alternative 5, which would mean continuing to do nothing about these issues.

Let's keep the ball rolling by approving Alternative 2. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,


Trinity Therapeutic