

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

Dear Ms. Jackson –

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the public comment period concerning the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) in Valley County, Idaho. This is a beautiful and resource rich part of our state. I believe that any mining project should approach the area with respect for the environment.

Like many others who have taken an interest in how the SGP will impact our region, I am convinced that Midas Gold's Alternative 2 is the best option. I am glad to see that Alternative 2 will repair the damage left by past mining operations, while creating jobs in the region. (This economic boost is especially welcome, given current conditions.)

The environmental problems caused by past mining operations have long seemed irreparable. It simply hasn't been a government priority and there is always insufficient public funding for such a large undertaking. It seems like the only way the area could be improved is if a private-sector party stepped forward. This is exactly what Midas Gold is doing.

At first, when word of this project arose, I was concerned that another mining company would do what past mining companies have done—create environmental problems. But Midas Gold is approaching this project with a genuine understanding of its responsibilities to the community and the environment. I recognize that Midas will still engage in mining, but it understands that the appropriate price of having access to the area is fulfilling environmental obligations.

Under Alternative 2, Midas will do more than maintain safe and environmentally responsible operations. The company has also committed to repairing the damage left by legacy mining.

I am especially supportive of the company's plans to clean up Blowout Creek and to restore the natural flow of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. These activities will help wildlife habitation. Clearly, the U.S. Forest Service recognizes the benefits of these actions, as detailed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences.

Fish haven't been able to enter the upper waters of the Salmon River for decades because the East Fork of the South Fork runs into a leftover mining pit. Midas Gold plans to build a tunnel and later restore the river, which will enable fish to reach long-blocked spawning grounds and cooler water at higher elevations. Too many Northwest fisheries are threatened, and it will be heartening to see the restoration of this passage.

Midas Gold will not be mining near Blowout Creek, but the company is still planning to repair the damage left by the old breached dam. This repair work will reduce the unhealthy sediment that flows into Meadow Creek. This effort will also help restore vegetation and wetlands.

Thank you for making all of the project documents available and for carefully reviewing my comment. I hope you approve Alternative 2 very soon.

Warm regards,

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