

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

Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

I am proud to submit my comments in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. This project presents our state with an incredible opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost our state's economy and use private investment to clean up a brownfield site – all while preserving access to Idaho's backcountry for people like me.

Midas Gold has made it clear reclamation efforts will start alongside operations. For example, before mining ever begins, fish will be reconnected to their native spawning groups upstream through a fish passageway. Eventually, the Yellow Pine Pit will be backfilled and the river can be permanently reconnected. Analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and Steelhead. In fact, the DEIS says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased genetic diversity of isolated populations and productivity.

They have worked to find safe access routes to the site that keeps vehicles away from our precious waterways. They have also worked to keep access to the backcountry open. Additionally, under alternative 2, the company decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site. Plus, the company is trying to minimize their impact on the environment by keeping facilities within the existing footprint of historic mining operations.

After reading my letter, I hope you can see why you should permit the Stibnite Gold Project. This project is a good thing for Idaho and cleans up the environment.

Thank You,

Rick Dolpeltus
