



**WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE.**

500 North Mission Street  
McCall, ID 83638

Payette National Forest Supervisor,

I am an employee of Western States CAT and have the opportunity to work alongside Midas Gold for several years. If they are allowed to move forward with the Stibnite Gold Project, they will reclaim an area impacted by historical mining, create hundreds of well-paying jobs and provide a huge boost to our economy in the process. It is a win-win for Valley County. We need to permit the project.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done did not go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and laying next to nearby streams and groundwater. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9). Midas Gold's water treatment during operations will further lower levels of these metals in the river and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. And fish still are not able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds. When fish are reconnected to more habitat upstream, 4.2-39 of the DEIS shows it will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations. This area needs to be remediated and Midas Gold has a plan to do it the right way.

More than 500 direct jobs will be available to community members and hundreds more indirect jobs would result. As cited in the PRO, the project is estimated to create ~\$150 million in regional sales transactions throughout the life of the project, and Midas Gold would directly pay an estimated \$329 million in federal corporate income taxes and \$86 million in state corporate income taxes.

Idahoans need to see the benefits of the Stibnite Gold Project come to life. The comment period should be kept to 60 days, so the process can continue to move forward. It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select the modified plan of restoration and operations Midas Gold Idaho presented, known as Alternative 2 in the draft Environmental Impact Statement, and permit the project.

Thanks for your time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MARC HOLOMES".

Marc Holomes

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest  
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor