

Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
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McCall, ID 83638

I am writing to express my support for Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project. When the last mining companies departed Stibnite, they left the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River with a damaged ecosystem and an uncertain future. Midas Gold's proposal represents an opportunity to rewrite that legacy.

First, our area is in dire need of good jobs. Midas Gold's commitment to hiring locally would make them one of the largest employers in Valley County and ensure that the families that need them the most will feel the economic benefits of their operations.

Those benefits won't come at the cost of further natural degradation. By limiting their work to previously affected sites and structures that exceed regulatory safety requirements, Midas Gold will minimize their environmental impact while reclaiming and restoring surrounding areas. For example, Alternative 3 proposes placing the Tailings Storage Facility in a pristine reach of the river and would leave the spent ore disposal area (SODA) and those legacy mine tailings in place. However, Alternative 2 places the proposed Tailings Storage Facility in an area that is already heavily impacted by mining activity, repurposes material from the SODA, and redistributes underlying, uncontained legacy mine tailings into a state of the art storage facility that minimizes impacts on the surrounding area.

Concerns over the return of mining are understandable, but dismissing this business proposals outright isn't a solution as Alternative 5 suggests. Midas Gold has a comprehensive plan for repairing old damage and creating new opportunity. They have demonstrated that they are invested in the long-term well-being of our communities and modern regulations will ensure that they make good on their environmental promises.

Midas Gold has earned our trust, and I ask that you approve Alternative 2 of their proposal so that residents of Valley County and Idahoans as a whole can begin to profit from a safer and more responsible mining industry.

Thank you for considering my letter.

Jason Bunch