

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

I am writing to you today to express my support for the Stibnite Gold Project. I consider myself a strong environmentalist, and believe that the investment Midas will provide to Idaho will not only benefit the environment, but is a necessary endeavor. Midas introduced their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) in 2019, outlining conservation principles, sustainability goals, as well as solutions for fish migration and spawning.

The guiding conservation principals Midas Gold will implement are to “conduct restoration, mining, milling and reclamation activities in an environmentally responsible manner” and to “design and construct facilities to minimize impacts to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, improve habitat across the project site and protect anadromous and local aquatic populations” (PRO, 2-1). The plans also include protecting and improving” local surface water”, “groundwater quality” and repairing, relocating and constructing “new ecologically diverse stream channels and wetlands to mitigate those disturbed by legacy and new mine development.” (PRO, 2-1).

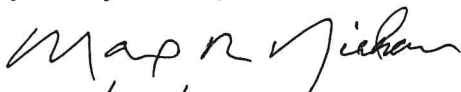
Midas Gold has also identified many sustainability goals, such as removing the current barriers to fish migration as well as “re-establish salmon and steelhead passage to the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River (EFSFSR) and Meadow Creek” to benefit the environmental outcome (PRO 2-4). There are also intentions of re-establishing fish habitats and spawning areas in the “newly accessible EFSFSR and Meadow Creek” as well as restoring “stream channels and riparian habitat” which was altered by previous mining (PRO 2-5). This will also improve fish habitat, fish spawning and fish passage, supporting a robust population of natural migratory fish, a net benefit resulting from the Project” (PRO 2-5).

Midas Gold specifically designed the Stibnite Gold Project to provide a solution for migrating fish to reach historical spawning grounds on their own within the first year of operations. The company has engineered a temporary fish passageway that is 0.9 miles long, which will accommodate a wide range of flow and will boost swimming speeds of each species by using a pool and weir system. The design will allow for adult salmon, steelhead and bull trout and will include lighting similar to ambient conditions to ease the transition at the entrance and exits.

After reviewing the draft EIS it looks like you agree that local aquatic population would thrive. In fact in Chapter 4 you note that under Alternative 2 fish populations would see increased productivity and diversity (4.12.-39).

Midas Gold is providing long-term solutions for the environment and our fish. I urge you, the U.S. Forest Service, to adopt alternative 2 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and move forward with Midas Gold’s project that will improve our wildlife in Idaho.

Thank you for your time,


10/27/20