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First name: Elisa

Last name: Knoff-Coito

Organization:

Title:

Comments: U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest

Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor

500 North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I wanted to write to you and voice my support of the alternative two that Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. I am a nature and wildlife lover and a true Idahoan invested in the direction our great state is headed. I was initially concerned about the mine coming into the area and felt it was important to educate myself on the plan Midas Gold Idaho was proposing for the area. I read their proposal and also signed up for the tour Midas Gold provided to view the mine site. I was so impressed with their proposal and the information they provided as well as how they answered all of the tough questions from other concerned citizens on the tours, that I went back two more times taking family and friends along so they could also gain knowledge and understanding about the project. It was clear and obvious to me that they are as concerned about the environment and wildlife as I am. This mining project will not only help restore the area which has long suffered from neglect and damage and destroyed the natural beauty of the area, but they provide solutions so further damage doesn't occur.

Additionally, they've implemented and enforced best practices that benefit the local environment and wildlife. For generations, local fish populations have been unable to access their natural habitat and spawning grounds in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Abandoned mines from years ago destroyed, blocked their passageway, and elevated metal levels along with hundreds of tons of sediment which have hurt water quality as well as local fish and wildlife.

Throughout the project, Midas has also proven itself to be a good corporate citizen which is very important to me. Knowing that their investment in the community not only benefits the local communities but also provide much needed resources to organizations that would otherwise not have the funds or ability to improve their programs is amazing and rarely heard of these days.

In my opinion, Midas has taken every effort to design the Stibnite project to address all the issues, starting with building a temporary fish passage system to connect local salmon, steelhead, and bull trout to their spawning grounds which will happen within the first year of the project's operations and knowing the full river will be restored later on down the line.

Knowing the full river restoration is at the heart of this project is also very important to me.

According to the Environmental Impact Study Draft, Midas's plan to remove physical barriers in the river and increase habitat quality, productivity as well as freedom of movement for both upstream and downstream fish is imperative. Additionally, the water-treatment plans Midas has outlined in their proposal would result in lower levels of metals in the river, improving water quality and further benefiting local wildlife.

Finally, the state of the art tailings storage facility they've designed to meet and/or exceed state regulations will help continue to protect the water quality throughout the lifetime of the project. The facility that Midas has planned incorporates industry best practices using the safest construction method possible is designed to prevent any future breaching of tailings into the water supply, protecting the surrounding ecosystem and allowing for full restoration of the river.

As someone who cares about the local environment, wildlife and who is a true advocate for keeping Idaho pristine, I believe this project is the best solution to restore the Stibnite-Yellow Pine area. Please approve alternative two without delay.

If needed, please feel free to contact me any time, I'm providing my phone number above.

Sincerely,

Elisa Knoff-Coito