

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 12:21:07 AM

First name: Rita

Last name: DeYoung

Organization:

Title:

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

Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor

500 North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

I would like to express my support for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project.

In 1984 I was introduced to Stibnite mine by my husband. His father was employed at the mine in the 80's. My husband would later take a job there in the 90's. I would visit the site many times with our small children. We would camp, fish and hunt. We have so many wonderful memories of the area. We still look forward to visiting every year.

The abandoned Yellow Pine Pit is a testament to what can happen when mining operations do not prioritize their environmental impact. I would like to see the area restored to its natural beauty, and Midas Gold Idaho has the right plans, expertise, and resources to get the job done.

The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River was originally diverted for mining. As a result, the areas fish populations are blocked from miles of their historical spawning grounds for decades. Midas Gold specifically designed the Stibnite Project to restore volitional fish passage so that they may be reconnected with their historic high-water spawning grounds. While the company only needed to design a tunnel to reroute the river away from the Pit during mining, Midas Gold committed millions of extra dollars so that the tunnel would specifically facilitate fish passage throughout the mine's operations. Unlike previous operations, the company plans to fully restore the EFSFSR upon completion of mining activities. In addition to backfilling the Yellow Pine Pit, the plan removes multiple physical barriers to passage and includes improvements to side channels that will open approximately 25 miles of perennial stream habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead.

In addition to reconnecting the flow of the Salmon River, taxpayers should be reassured they won't be stuck with the bill. Among the many investments it intends to make, Midas Gold has already demonstrated its commitment by spending more than \$180 million in the last decade to assess the feasibility of the project and repairing environmental damage from past mining operations. Not to mention, more than \$89 million spent with Idaho vendors to conduct these preliminary operations.

In the event that the company is unable to complete the project, Midas Gold has already set aside the funds necessary for regulators to reclaim the site. Your department's draft Environmental Impact Statement confirmed that sufficient funding would be available to allow the Forest Service to complete reclamation and post closure operation, including continuation of any post closure active or passive water treatment, maintenance activities, and necessary monitoring for as long as required to return the site to a stable and acceptable condition. (2.3.7.16).

Please approve the plan for the Stibnite Gold Project as presented in Alternative 2.

Regards,