

Payette National Forest,

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

I am impressed by Midas Gold's plans to clean up water quality conditions at the site by removing sediment and old materials blocking the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Today, steelhead and Chinook salmon cannot access spawning grounds because they are blocked by an abandoned mining pit. Midas will address this issue before mining even begins â€” reconnecting fish for the first time in more than 80 years. The company will build a fish passageway in the short term and eventually restore full access to 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of fish spawning habitat above the Yellow Pine pit. If we do not allow Midas Gold to move forward with their plans, it is highly unlikely anyone else will provide the funds needed to reconnect fish to this currently lost habitat.

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.

Respectfully,

Name: Paul McKennon