



American Exploration &
Mining Association

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Payette National Forest
ATTN: Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom
Stibnite Gold EIS
500 N. Mission St.
McCall, ID 83638

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL: comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us

Re: Stibnite Gold Plan of Operations EIS #50516

Please accept our unique comments on the **Stibnite Gold EIS** in the Payette National Forest. This project is a unique opportunity for environmental restoration and responsible economic growth.

Rarely does the US Forest Service (USFS) have an opportunity to accept a project like Stibnite into its public lands portfolio. This project will undertake the restoration of legacy environmental damages from nearly 100 years of mining activity, much of which was created to meet the critical needs demanded by the United States Federal Government during wartime. The creation of new fish passages, streams, and reforestation will all be undertaken by the project proponent at no obligation to the taxpayer. Without these efforts these legacy issues will go unresolved. Simply put, the cost of no action is too high of a price for the environment on our public lands.

Furthermore, Valley County, Idaho is one of the more economically challenged locales in the western US. The impact of tax revenue estimated to be \$329 Million in federal corporate income taxes and \$86 Million in State corporate income and mine license taxes is an enormous impact. These good paying, safe and stable jobs are not a temporary impact. They are life changing moments that will last generations in the rural area.

AEMA has long been an advocate for lessening the US dependence on foreign sources of materials for the elements necessary to sustain our everyday lives. With the approval of this project, the US once again will produce critical and strategic minerals primarily sourced from China and elsewhere. This is a goal that has been endorsed repeatedly by the US House of Representatives.

We encourage the USFS to approve the proposed Stibnite Gold Plan of Operations EIS #50516.

American Exploration & Mining Association (AEMA) is a 122-year old, 1,900 member national association representing the minerals industry with members residing in 42 U.S. states (including Idaho), six Canadian provinces or territories, and 10 other countries. AEMA is the recognized national voice for exploration, the junior mining sector, and maintaining access to public lands, and represents the entire mining life cycle, from exploration to reclamation and closure. More than 80% of our

members are small businesses or work for small businesses. Most of our members are individual citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ellsworth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Ellsworth
Government Affairs