

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

Re: Support for Alternative 2 of Stibnite Gold Project

Dear Supervisor Jackson:

First, a belated welcome to central Idaho. I wish you the best of luck in your relatively new position as Forest Supervisor of the Payette National Forest. I read in the announcement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) about your admirable career with the U.S. Forest Service. I am grateful that someone with your experience—and a trained geologist as well—is leading the review of Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) proposals.

This communication is submitted as an official comment on the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project.

I am supportive of Alternative 2 over other Alternatives, as discussed below. More generally, the SGP will bring many benefits to the area, economically, geologically, and environmentally. Key benefits of the project (all detailed in the DEIS) include:

- **Fish recovery**—Notably, restoration of the fish passage on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River will enable fish to reach spawning grounds and improve biodiversity.
- **Water quality improvements**—Removal and storage of tailings and other waste from legacy mining will improve water quality.
- **Geotechnical improvements**—Restoration of Blowout Creek and consolidation of existing mining materials will improve geotechnical stability in several parts of the area.
- **Economic and employment contributions**—Construction and operations of the new mine complex will clearly help the local economy and support several hundred jobs.

Alternative 2, as noted above, stands ahead of the other options. In brief, Alternative 2 is a modified and improved version of Alternative 1 that responds to community concerns. Alternative 2 will provide requested (seasonal) public access to some parts of the site. It also includes a number of modifications that will result in a lower environmental impact than Alternative 1.

Alternative 4 would be less expedient and its proposed Yellow Pine route would present greater risks from rock fall, landslide, and avalanche. Alternative 3 would also involve delays and the analysis of the impacts of proposed storage facilities is insufficient.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please complete your review as soon as possible; our community is ready to see this project move forward.

Best regards,

Nick Miller

New Meadows, ID