

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

The site is rich in gold deposits but it also has antimony, which was recently deemed a critical by the federal government. Antimony is used as a fire retardant and metal strengthener. It is used in everything from batteries, textiles, cell phones, plastics and cable sheathing. Right now, the U.S. doesn't have a domestic antimony mine. The Stibnite Gold Project could provide one-quarter of the American demand for antimony in the country. This is so important with the current tenuous trade relations in our country.

There has been more than sufficient time to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and adopt Alternative two as the preferred alternative.

As a native Idaho person I do believe that the problem with the salmon recovery is not due to mining the problem in my opinion lies within the fishing game they are not clear on their approach To raising salmon it's just a numbers game look at the fall chinook that are starting to come back to the Columbia the snake and the salmon river all because of a great amount of small fish being released at different points along the downstream migration below Hells Canyon Dam I worked for the fishing game for two years at the salmon hatchery at rapid River they're was a simple formula the more fish you release the more fish you were going to get back if I remember correctly is about 1/10 of 1% of the fish released will return back as adults we released millions of small Chinook from the hatchery at rapid River and returns back around 14 to 17,000 adults I don't know why They don't release this amount of fish anymore I believe it's truly a numbers game if you look at the amount of fish released yearly.

Sincerely, Richard Pottenger

Name: Richard Pottenger