

I am writing in support of mining in the United States and specifically in support of Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Gold Project, which will significantly improve historic pollution while also contributing the needed metals for a developing society. This project will also provide jobs and significant tax revenue to the state of Idaho.

The advancement of society is directly linked to our ability to extract and utilize natural resources. The more advanced a society the more raw materials it demands. So long as the world population continues to grow and advance technologically it will continue to demand more and more metals such that no amount of recycling can cover the demand. Therefore, in order to produce the required metals more mining is required. So the question becomes would you prefer to mine in previously disturbed areas or mine in pristine environments. The answer to this question is obvious and the Stibnite Gold Project is a great opportunity to see the benefits of allowing continued mining in areas of prior disturbance so that they can ultimately be remediated to modern standards. In many areas the Superfund designation has stopped companies from ever accessing valuable mineral deposits that were left behind when mines closed abruptly; sometimes due to government action such as halting gold mining during WWII. These decisions lacked the foresight and understanding that things once deemed waste, could become a future resource. It's time to welcome a new perspective and embrace the reality that we need mining and it is best done in areas with known mineral deposits, that often come with some amount of historic environmental damage. We need to embrace miners who attempt to support our way of life and also improve environmental damage caused by prior generations.

The ultimate impact of a denial by the USFS of this project will a loss of jobs and income, missed opportunity to remediate contaminated lands, disturbance in some other (likely pristine area) and wealth destruction. In my opinion, the USFS should be required to address each of these issues when determining the best course of action. It should also have to fund and execute a reclamation plan on par with that of Perpetua Resources Stibnite Gold Project and also set aside other designated areas where similar mineral resources can be mined. This is not a question of if this project should be allowed to proceed, it is a question of where we should place the mines needed to sustain our existence on the planet. If not here, then where?

I urge you to accept Perpetua Resources' plan as outlined under the 2021 Modified Mine Plan and continue moving this project forward.

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