

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. Today, fish cannot swim past the Yellow Pine pit and heavy metals are leaching into the ground and surface water. The Stibnite Gold Project can leave the conditions better than they are today.

I agree with regulators and feel strongly that the preferred alternative is the best option for the Stibnite Gold Project moving forward. This option utilizes Burntlog Road. According to the SDEIS, this route would avoid environmental and safety risks associated with the avalanche and landside prone Johnson Creek Road. We need the minerals from Stibnite and Burntlog will allow mining to move forward while minimizing the impacts of mining on the community. Burntlog will reduce mine traffic interactions with the public and decrease the potential for spills near fish-bearing streams.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our state needs. It has been in regulatory review for the past six years. During this time, public comments and scientific analysis has helped to improve the plan. But now it is time to move it forward. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan presented by Perpetua Resources in the SDEIS, as expeditiously as possible.

James Hays