

There is a lot at stake at Stibnite. The regional economy. Mineral independence. Fish ecology. The health of natural areas we local residents hold dear. Done poorly and without oversight, the project could be a disaster. Thoughtfully planned and executed with our governing and watchdog agencies providing oversight, it could be the best development in our region in a century. Based on what I have read and personally observed at the site, I believe Perpetua's plan is prudent, thoughtful, and considers the important concerns of stakeholders ranging from the Nez Perce tribe to economic leaders. I also trust that the Department of the Interior, Idaho Fish & Game, and other responsible agencies will oversee work to assure that plans and promises to first do no harm, and more-so, to remediate past mine pollution, will be honored. I think it is reasonable to measure the baseline for watershed health and put mechanisms in place to track the progress, including the return of fish species above the mine. Steps like this should further assuage concerns of mining's impact.

Improved fish habitat, environmentally conscientious mineral extraction, remediated mine pollution. These are three key reasons I support Perpetua's plans for the Stibnite mine. I know it sounds odd that I would support a mine to clean up the mess left by another mine, but that's what it boils down to. We are at the point where in fact it takes a good mining plan to remediate the spoils left behind by a lesser enlightened predecessor. I know some environmentalists don't believe it, but a lot has changed compared to 100, 50, and even 10 years ago. Mining technology allows for cleaner and more efficient extraction. Our ecologically more aware governing bodies and accountable agencies are poised to provide responsible oversight, and the science of fish health and riparian ecology is behind the important work that is already underway. I've witnessed first hand the literal moving of tons of rock and relocation of creeks to begin the clean up. I don't see this as mere window dressing, but rather a sign of good faith that this company understands that profitable extraction in this modern era requires sincere environmental stewardship. I'm optimistic that future generations will observe and enjoy the return of Chinook and Steelhead to the upper reaches of the Salmon River Watershed Northeast of Cascade.

Also important - economic growth for our region. America needs home-sourced antimony. Our population's desire for better batteries grows daily with no end in sight. Local mining jobs will help diversify Valley County's local economy which has become tourism-centric. The regional economic multiplier of these jobs and related spending will further bolster our rural economy.

In summary, I see the Stibnite mine as win-win-win. Of course Perpetua will win - without an economic return for their shareholders they wouldn't be at the table. It is certain that the national and local economies win. And although it is controversial, I believe our fish and environment will also be winners.

Tom Reinhardt