



Idaho State Senate

PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street, Building 2
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

As a member of the Idaho State Senate, I am eager to promote opportunities that will help our communities flourish and grow. I want to thank the U.S. Forest Service for deciding to release a supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement for Perpetua Resources Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. I believe that this project has the potential to significantly boost Idaho's economy while also providing critical environmental reclamation. I am writing you today in support of their proposal and plans for Stibnite.

The Stibnite site has been home to a host of mining operations over the last century and unfortunately, past operators were not responsible stewards of the environment leaving the land and surrounding habitat in a disastrous condition. In fact, for the past 80 years, the East Fork and South Fork of the Salmon River has dumped into the abandoned Yellow Pine pit. As a result, anadromous and local fish populations have not been able to migrate upstream from this point since the 1930s.

Perpetua promises to be different. From the outset they have focused their plans on reclaiming and restoring the environment. As a part of the 2021 MMP, Perpetua Resources has guaranteed that they will reconnect the rivers and create a habitat that will allow for healthy salmon to flow through our rivers once again.

Moreover, the company was concerned about the impact traveling into Stibnite along the Johnson Creek and Stibnite Roads would have on the fish-bearing waterways. As a result, the Company suggested building Burntlog Road. After reviewing the Supplemental Draft EIS, it is clear that the Burntlog road will have the lowest impact on fish and wildlife populations. For instance, the document says that "The Burntlog Route would avoid environmental and human health and safety risks associated with the Johnson Creek Route which passes through identified areas for avalanches, landslides, and floods. This route would provide another route for SGP ingress/egress, would decrease SGP and public traffic interaction with Yellow Pine and Johnson Creek area residents; and would decrease the potential for spill risk adjacent to fish-bearing streams." (Ch2. Pg. 2-18)

Restoration is a costly endeavor, one that cannot be taken on by the taxpayers alone. I am confident after reviewing the supplemental draft EIS that Perpetua will use their proposed \$1 billion private investment to not only restore our environment but to leave the site in a condition in which it can flourish for future generations.

The work Perpetua undertook this summer to begin addressing water quality concerns at Stibnite is further evidence that the company lives up to their promises and that they really are good stewards of our state's natural resources.

I hope you will consider my comments during the review process and please permit the 2021 MMP.

Thank you for your time,

Senator Linda Wright Hartgen, District 25