



December 6, 2022

**Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor  
U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest  
500 North Mission Street  
McCall, ID 83638**

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

Granite Excavation Inc. is a locally owned and operated, large-scale commercial and residential excavating contractor located in Valley County, Idaho. We employ more than 100 people across the state and have been and always will be committed to our customers, employees and, importantly, our community.

When we were contracted by Perpetua Resources to perform work in support of their project years ago, we learned about their plans for the Stibnite mining district and knew this was a historic opportunity to support a project that would have some real significance for central Idaho and the whole state.

Therefore, Granite Excavation would like to express our support for the Forest Service's Modified Mine Plan with Burntlog access. In Chapter 2, pages 2-18, the SDEIS indicates 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.

The Stibnite Gold Project embodies our belief that business and the environment can thrive together, as this project will clearly be a tremendous economic "win" for the regional business community and people of Idaho. In total, the project will amount to more than a \$1 billion investment in Idaho. Over the 20-year duration of the project, it is estimated to generate approximately \$150 million in state and local tax revenues. The investment extends to the region's citizens as well, with approximately 500 positions that could employ residents within Idaho.

Additionally, what many don't realize is that if the Stibnite Gold Project is allowed to move forward, it will be the only antimony mine in America. Antimony is a critical mineral that is used in everything from military munitions, batteries, textiles, cell phones, plastics, cable sheathing, as a metal strengthening additive and as a fire retardant. However, right now, we import all of our antimony from countries like Russia and China. In fact, the Department of Defense outlined a plan to strategically stockpile the mineral if the U.S. doesn't find a more reliable source, and it is right here in our backyard!



Antimony from the Stibnite Gold Project could fulfill nearly a quarter of the U.S. demand for the strategically important industrial material while providing jobs and economic investment to rural Idaho.

Finally, the project could also be a “win” for the environment, improving water quality and helping fish. In their plans, it is clear that the environment is always their focus. Plans from the company focus on cleaning up elevated metals in surface and ground waters and reversing the damage from legacy operations. In appendix A of the draft EIS, you can see Perpetua Resources is committed to minimizing disturbances to wildlife during the project and improving the region once mining is complete. According to findings in Chapter 4, section 12 of the draft EIS, removing barriers currently blocking fish access will increase productivity and diversity of some populations.

This area needs help, and Perpetua Resources has a plan to do it the right way while bringing necessary investment and partnership to this region's economy. We need the Forest Service's Modified Mine Plan with Burntlog access because it will bring the Stibnite Gold Project and its benefits to fruition in the quickest manner while ensuring that the best possible actions are taken. Thank you for your consideration of our comment. Please adopt Alternative 2 and allow the Stibnite Gold Project to move forward.

Sincerely,

**Josh Davis, President**