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December 14, 2022

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

Re: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments for the Stibnite Gold Project

I very much appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) published in November 2022. I'm an Idaho native, a licensed CPA, and a 37-year resident of Soda Springs where, earlier this year, I completed my second term as an elected City Councilman. As such, I'm keenly aware of the significant boost our local mining industry provides to the economy of Caribou County as well as the State of Idaho. The three phosphate mines in our area collectively employ well over a thousand Idahoans in their mining and manufacturing operations. These well-paying jobs, combined with the associated taxes and fees paid to local, state, and federal governments have contributed substantial economic value to our region for many decades, and will do so for many more. Additionally, the accompanying indirect impact creates an economic multiplier effect which increases employment considerably on both a regional and statewide basis. I'm highly confident Valley County, neighboring communities, and the entire western Idaho region would realize similar fiscal benefits during construction, operation, and reclamation of the SGP.

Following my thorough review of the SDEIS, I reached the conclusion that the Preferred alternative presents the best plan for the SGP. Compared to the original submission, I was particularly impressed with the reduction in overall project disturbances as well as the increases in geosynthetic covering and riparian habitat. Equally impressive was the ore processing modifications which notably improved tailings chemistry. These proactive and responsible mining practices will thoroughly minimize risks, mitigate impacts, and alleviate most, if not all, concerns with the SGP.

Based on the preceding, I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to expeditiously approve the Preferred alternative delineated in the SGP SDEIS. Doing so will remedy, in a responsible manner, the myriad of existing legacy environmental problems at the site and provide considerable economic benefit to the great State of Idaho through the addition of numerous good-paying jobs. This is clearly a win/win scenario for all involved.

Respectfully submitted,



Jon D. Goode, CPA