

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.

Looking at landside and avalanche data, it becomes obvious why the USFS named the Burntlog Route as its preferred alternative. According to the SDEIS, the Johnson Creek Route has 45 landside and 94 avalanche paths. While these natural hazards aren't eliminated on Burntlog, they are reduced. Mine traffic will only have to pass 26 landside and 38 avalanche paths while traveling on the Burntlog Route. Simply put, the Burntlog Route is safer. In fact, the SDEIS concludes utilizing Johnson Creek would increase the potential for accidents and spills associated with the project because of naturally occurring geohazards.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the 2021 Modified Mine Plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider the positive benefits Perpetua Resources will have on Idaho, especially now that the company has reduced its environmental footprint and made further improvements to water quality. This truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment. After years of careful scrutiny by regulators and the community, it is time for us to make these benefits a reality.

Forrest Pipkin