

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.

I support the preferred alternative because it will help minimize the impacts of mine traffic and reduce the risk of accidents and spills. According to the SDEIS, less than 10 miles of the Burntlog Route is within a half mile of a waterway compared to 27 miles on Johnson Creek. The Johnson Creek Route would put our community and fish at greater risk if there was ever an accident or spill while Perpetua was traveling to site. I want to keep traffic as far away from rivers, streams and creeks as possible.

The SDEIS reduces the size of the project footprint, improves water quality, eliminates the need for long-term water treatment and makes sure water temperature on site does not exceed baseline conditions – all while providing our nation with access to a mineral we desperately need. The permitting process has been thorough and complete. Now, I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan.

Elrod Phillip