



December 7, 2022

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

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson:

The city of Cascade, Idaho, has been working with Midas Gold Idaho over the past decade as the company has laid the preliminary groundwork for its proposed Stibnite Gold Project. We are thankful for this opportunity to submit our comments on this project to the U.S. Forest Service.

With a population of roughly 1,000 people, our city is familiar with the benefits and challenges of natural resource work, especially as it is related to timber and mining. For generations, Cascade was built on and sustained by these industries. We have both prospered from the highs and felt the devastating impacts of the disappearance of industry jobs in our region. We have not had either industry for almost two decades; businesses are left to the cyclical nature of a tourism-based economy as our families struggle to keep the next generation anchored to Cascade.

Experience reminds us that it is important to have a voice in the process. Perpetua Resources has reached out and involved local communities like Cascade in their planning. With the creation of the Stibnite Advisory Council (SAC) Perpetua wants to hear about concerns or impacts that will affect our region. In fact, after reading most of the letters after the DEIS in 2020, SAC approached Perpetua about funding a 3rd party Independent Water Monitoring program and when asked, Perpetua agreed to fund this study and it shows that surface and ground water at Stibnite are in fact contaminated and Perpetua's water quality reporting is accurate. In addition, SAC asked for 3rd party Tailings Storage Facility review and although we have yet to see the results, the study was completed, and SAC is to receive a presentation in December. This kind of partnership from our community businesses is what we want to see.

Cascade is the closest city to the Perpetua Resources; a project that will have a direct impact on our residents that will be both positive and negative. This project has an opportunity to provide some much-needed economic stimulus during these uncertain times. Infrastructure of all types, including, but not limited to housing that is affordable, water, sewer, and roads within the city will require a commitment to meet the increased demands resulting from this project. The city will look to Perpetua to help meet needs that our current tax base is unable to meet. In addition, growth impacts the school, hospital and law enforcement will also need to be considered now and in the future. Perpetua has reached out recently to start the discussion about a sustainable development fund to address the potential of impacts once the project is in construction and operations. This will allow our communities the flexibility of addressing issues as they arise if they arise.

It has been over 20 years since a since a major employer was in or close to Cascade. The City has struggled to attract another entity that would be able to provide a living wage for families that reside in our city and the surrounding area. With Perpetua coming to the region, our hope is that our economy will start to diversify as businesses move to the region to support the mine. In, Perpetua, we will have electricians, plumbers, and other trade workers that will be able to provide those services throughout our region when the Stibnite Gold Project is completed or if employees decide to pick up a part time position on their days off.

According to the estimates from Perpetua Resources and data reflected in the Payette Forest Supplemental Draft study, this project has the potential to create as many as 600 jobs during the construction phase and more than 500 local jobs through operations. Acknowledging that a third of those local jobs would benefit existing residents with another third potentially moving into the area with their families. With the increase in short term rentals properties, the City of Cascade has and will continue to experience a series long term housing shortage that already negatively impacted existing residents. An increase in population without a plan for more housing is a serious concern for our city. However, it is uncertain if those workers will live in the city other than Cascade.

WE are told that during operations, these jobs would include management and administration as well as mechanics and engineers, surveyors, geologists, environmental specialists, and many others. Additionally, there would be hundreds of jobs indirectly supported by the project including those to fill the new demand in transportation, the supply chain, as well as local community services like teachers, retail, and hospitality. We look to Perpetua to step up and help us meet the challenges known and those challenges yet to be discovered. In addition, we look for help with solutions to mitigate the burden to local businesses affected by the loss of employees who become employed by Perpetua because of high wages.

With the lifespan of the project being 12-15 years, we feel there should be a plan in place that assuages the effects of transitioning the local economy back to one of the self-sustenance when the project has reached its lifespan.

A major employer can bring a sense of community ownership. We counted on the support of Boise Cascade's upper management as well as the local managers and employees. There was a sense of family whereby everyone was supportive of school, chamber, and city activities. The logistic facility being located closed to Cascade could result in providing the regular Monday to Friday work week and help build a sense of community and family that has weakened over the years. Given the current proposed location, company transportation coming out of the Treasurer Valley could help reduce vehicle trips on Highway 55.

There may be additional impacts to the city airport as it primarily services this back-country area. We know there is a lot to consider when approving and permitting a project of this magnitude, it is our hope that Perpetua Resources will continue to work toward positive and meaningful solutions for all concerned

Sincerely,


Judith Nissula, Mayor
City of Cascade