

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Perpetua Resources' Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Stibnite Gold Project benefits the nation and the national forest in so many important ways. Development of the project enables the country to benefit from the extracted metals while providing the financial resources to restore the valley from impairments caused by previous mining operations. The project will produce gold, silver, and antimony that the US needs to benefit the economy. Antimony is a critical metal for which we depend on foreign countries to provide for our domestic needs. Extracting stibnite concentrate from the mined materials for this project will provide a domestic source for this strategic metal and ameliorate our dependence on foreign sources, some adversarial, to furnish antimony for domestic and military uses.

In addition to providing employment and economic opportunity to this rural county, the development of the project will provide needed infrastructure improvements to Valley County. Improvements in the transportation and power supply infrastructure will benefit the communities of McCall, Cascade, Warm Lake, Johnson Creek, and Yellow Pine. Employment of a high-salary workforce in Valley County will attract an affluent population with added employment and development opportunities to serve the increased population.

The most significant benefit of the project to the national forest is the remediation of impacts from former operations and the restoration of habitat that the US Forest Service has not been able to accomplish for the past several decades. The improvements include the control of sediment and dissolved metals in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and the restoration of fish passage to its headwaters. Reclamation of land scarred by excavation and mine waste dumping is also a great benefit to the forest ecology. Stabilization of the land and revegetation with native species as part of reclamation and closure will ensure continued ecological improvement in the valley for generations to come. The mineral riches in the valley enable all of these positive environmental outcomes to occur. Mining the ore for the Stibnite Gold Project now enables the restoration to occur sooner than if the project is delayed or denied. The value of metals in the ground remains a significant attraction to mining interests as long as the ore is still in the ground. Once the gold, silver, and antimony are removed and the valley is restored, the attraction will be gone and the forest and its users will be the beneficiaries for generations to come.

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