



**Scott Bedke**  
**Lieutenant Governor**

January 4, 2023

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I am submitting this letter regarding the Stibnite Gold Project and the 2021 Modified Mine Plan examined in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released for public comment in October.


As Lt. Governor and multi-generational rancher, I am keenly aware of how important natural resource management and development is to Idahoans. I am also proud of the role Idaho mining can play in securing a domestic and responsible source of many of the minerals our country needs for national defense, energy, and technology. Producing minerals like cobalt and antimony in Idaho helps end foreign reliance and makes our nation stronger. The conflict in Ukraine and continued disruption in Chinese-sourced supply chains provide a new level of urgency to moving forward the domestic production of these critical minerals.

After six years of regulatory review under the National Environmental Policy Act, the impacts and benefits of the Stibnite Gold Project have been thoroughly evaluated, refined, and improved. It is clear that Perpetua's \$1 billion investment, 500+ direct jobs, and robust salaries will bring long term benefits to Idaho's workforce, families, and businesses. The project will invest millions of dollars in road and powerline infrastructure and Perpetua has already invested millions of dollars in addressing the environmental conditions at this abandoned mine site.

All Idahoans have a vested interest in seeing Stibnite cleaned up. I applaud the U.S. Forest Service for the mine plan changes between the 2020 Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the 2022 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. These changes provide a reduction in arsenic levels in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River by 47% and a reduction in antimony levels in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River by 60% (tables on 4.9-18).

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to direct the necessary resources to efficiently complete the review of the 2021 Modified Mine Plan and move toward a record of decision as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

  
Scott Bedke