

America desperately needs antimony. This mineral is used in munitions, large-capacity storage batteries, fire retardants and more. Currently, we are entirely dependent on foreign countries to provide this mineral, which is why I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. This project can stop our import reliance on antimony.

Looking at landslide 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 landslide and 94 avalanche paths. While these natural hazards aren't eliminated on Burntlog, they are reduced. Mine traffic will only have to pass 26 landslide 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.

I appreciate your time and thoughtfulness in the review process. The U.S. Forest Service has not cut any corners over the past 6 years analyzing the project and I've appreciated the opportunities to provide feedback. For the reasons I stated in my letter above, please permit the Stibnite Gold Project.

Gene Sawyer