



**PO Box 234
Donnelly, ID 83615**

January 1, 2023

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 Valley County Republican Women (VCRW) support the Stibnite Gold Project and Perpetua Resources' efforts to restore the old Stibnite mining area and to mine gold and antimony. We want you to know we support the Modified Mine Plan with the Burntlog access because by referencing Pg. 2-18 you indicate that the Burntlog Route would avoid environmental and human health and safety risks associated with the Johnson Creek Route which passes through identified areas for avalanches, landslides, and floods. This route would provide another route for SGP ingress/egress, would decrease SGP and public traffic interaction with Yellow Pine and Johnson Creek area residents; and would decrease the potential for spill risk adjacent to fish-bearing streams.

The VCRW is a diverse group of mostly women and a handful of males as associate members. We represent all of Valley County; comprised of some members that have resided here for more than 70 years. We are farmers, retired forest service employees, military, law enforcement, and span the gambit of employed, retired, highly educated, and concerned citizens. We are well versed on the issues and implications of mining in Valley County.

We recognize Perpetua Resources as valued community leaders and partners that have the best interests of Valley County in mind. Perpetua has always acted in an ethical manner. We believe Perpetuas' establishment of the Stibnite Advisory Council and the Stibnite Foundation as bedrock institutions that reflect their caring and progressive attitudes within our communities.

The Modified Mine Plan is in line with Idaho values and our way of life. Idahoans have long understood that using the land and protecting the land can go hand-in-hand. Perpetua Resources' project blends improving public lands with building a robust business and it is an approach we encourage. From repairing a legacy mine site to developing roads and power

infrastructure, the \$1 billion investment the company would make in Idaho will benefit the entire state. For example, ground and surface water quality are currently a concern around the site. In some places on the site, arsenic and antimony levels in the water are currently 700 times higher than drinking water standards. After reading comments submitted following the DEIS, the company identified even more ways to improve water quality and reduce water temperature. With improved water and other enhancements, the South Fork Salmon spawning bed and passage issues will be greatly improved and restored. If we let Perpetua Resources remove legacy tailings it will provide long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water.

In addition, beyond the conservational enhancement, the economic improvements that Perpetua will bring will be significantly important to Valley County. It is projected that Perpetua will bring over 1,000 jobs throughout the life of the project. The trickle-down effect may include another 1,000 jobs. The importance of the Perpetuas' 1,000 jobs is significant because they will be well paying jobs providing salaries and benefits that will exceed \$80,000 per year. Additionally, the impact to our tax base will further help our communities.

We hope that after 6 years of review by the experts in their fields, that the Forest Service will move this project forward as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Valley County Republican Women
Executive Board