

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair. Today, fish cannot swim past the Yellow Pine pit and heavy metals are leaching into the ground and surface water. The Stibnite Gold Project can leave the conditions better than they are today.

Idaho is known for its outdoor recreation opportunities, so I understand people's concerns over how the Stibnite Gold Project would impact local tourism. However, the USFS' previous analysis concluded the project would have negligible socioeconomic impacts to the region's recreation tourism sector. So, I feel comfortable supporting the project and the other economic benefits it would bring to our region, including 500+ well-paying jobs, a boon to the state's tax-base and millions more dollars circulating in our local economy. This is our best chance to restore the abandoned Stibnite Mining District, improve regional water quality and secure an American source of antimony. I hope we take advantage of the opportunities the Stibnite Gold Project presents.

The SDEIS reduces the size of the project footprint, improves water quality, eliminates the need for long-term water treatment and makes sure water temperature on site does not exceed baseline conditions – all while providing our nation with access to a mineral we desperately need. The permitting process has been thorough and complete. Now, I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan.

Kathleen Oconnell