

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to the country, as well as the state of Idaho.

First, the domestic mining of strategic materials like antimony could not be more important. Antimony is a critical element of various products essential to national security and the American way of life. This country should not be totally dependent on foreign sources of antimony. The proposed mine will be an invaluable source of significant antimony to meet domestic demand.

Second, 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 will invest millions of dollars to dramatically improve this area.

More specifically, salmon have been cut off from miles of high-mountain spawning grounds and rearing habitats since roughly 1938, when the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River was diverted around the Yellow Pine Pit. Fortunately, Perpetua Resources plans to design and install a fish passageway to help connect fish to their native spawning grounds before mining even begins. While skeptics have questioned whether or not the passageway would work, the SDEIS concludes it will provide passage for all four special status fish species at Stibnite. After mining at the Yellow Pine Pit is complete, Perpetua will begin full restoration of the river, creating a long-term solution for salmon to spawn upstream. This is just one of the environmental benefits of the preferred alternative.

In sum, this project is a huge opportunity. After 12 or more years of intense development and review, I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to finally permit the 2021 Modified Mine Plan, so this unique site can finally deliver on its potential to the country and Idaho.

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