

To: U.S. Forest Service Representative

From Ned Mamula, economic geologist

RE: Stibnite antimony deposit at Yellow Pine, Idaho

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, there has been zero domestic production of tungsten and antimony since at least 2015 probably longer. Both antimony and tungsten imports to the U.S. are largely from China and elsewhere. Similarly, China and Russia dominate the global antimony market. The Stibnite Mine at Yellow Pine represents the only commercially-viable deposit of antimony in North America at this time, and producing this deposit could help displace imports of antimony from China, and possibly replace those imports entirely.

The Forest Service could now lead the way regarding the reduction of critical mineral foreign imports by getting the Perpetua project approved as soon as possible. Perpetua submitted a modern environmentally sensitive plan to restart the mine to produce antimony and gold--that plan was proposed in 2016. It is now seven years later and the demand for antimony has increased significantly. By approving the Perpetua mine plan, Forest Service will be able to help increase production of this critical mineral--and join forces with the DOD who has very recently provided a large grant to Perpetua to produce all-important antimony and tungsten needed by the Pentagon for national security.

It is a historical fact that During World War II, employees at Stibnite worked non-stop extracting antimony and tungsten to manufacture munitions and military equipment for our troops to ultimately win World War II. There were no environmental regulations 80 years ago but today the U.S. leads the world in environmental stewardship on our federal lands. Therefore, whatever concerns Forest Service may have about the plan to develop the Stibnite deposit in an environmentally responsible way should be put to rest.

Approval of this project will significantly reduce our country's import reliance on China and Russia while restoring the local environment at an abandoned mine site already impacted by more than 100 years of mining. These are goals we can all agree with and goals which should be viewed by policymakers as a "win-win." Also, it is noteworthy that Stibnite is a brownfield site, meaning that restoration and mining operations conducted there can only improve the environment, and Forest Service surely wants to be on the right side of the decision to approve mining and further restoration operations at Stibnite.

Finally, the jobs that will be provided at Stibnite are critical too, for the people of Yellow Pine and the surrounding areas. Please get this project approved and show us that the Biden administration is serious about domestic sourcing of our most important critical minerals! Thank you Forest Service!

Regards,

Groundbreaking! America's New Quest for Mineral Independence

Ned Mamula