

Linda Jackson

Payette Forest Supervisor

500N Mission St, Building 2

McCall ID, 83638

Dear Forest Supervisor,

My name is Sam Field, I have worked at the Stibnite Gold Project since October of 2011. As a geologist I have worked on many aspects of the project including drilling operations, water quality sampling, road maintenance and avalanche removal. Perpetua Resources has taken the time to understand the area and design the best possible project. The company lives up to the motto of Safety and Environmental protection first. Operations and Production second. By taking the time, I mean 12 years of working with stakeholders to make sure this project meets the highest environmental standards and is right for Idaho, which includes 6 years in formal regulatory review.

While working at the project site for over a decade I have experienced many situations on the current access route that cause concern when considering a larger operation. The road winds at the bottom of the valley along the river with over 1000' of steep hillside above in many places. This creates the potential for avalanches and rockslides that are filled with debris to hit the road unexpectedly. During the current phase of the project this is mitigated by watching conditions closely and limiting travel when the hazard level is high. During future construction and mining operations this would not be a good option. The Burntlog Route alternative is the best option to safely move people and supplies and protect the environment. As listed in the Executive Summary of the Supplemental Draft EIS, *"Both the Burntlog and Johnson Creek routes have segments that are exposed to landslides, rockfalls, and avalanches. These geohazards present along the road corridors could increase the potential for truck accidents resulting in spills of hazardous materials. The Burntlog Route has exposure to 26 landslides or rockfalls and 38 avalanche paths. The Johnson Creek Route has exposure to 45 landslides or rockfalls and 94 avalanche paths. The Johnson Creek Route thus may have higher potential for increased trucking accidents and greater spill risk from these geohazards."* (ES-13)

Perpetua's plan to restore the site and clean up legacy tailings that leach metals into groundwater every day is the only practical way that I can see ever fixing this issue. A mining company that can turn a profit and conduct a large-scale conservation clean up effort is a win-win for the environment and the taxpayer. As listed in section 4.9.2.1, on page 4-5 of the Supplemental Draft EIS, *"Soil sampling and analysis indicate that legacy mining wastes have influenced concentrations of arsenic, antimony, and mercury in soil within the SGP. The elevated soil concentrations and continued presence of the waste material provide a pathway for these constituents to leach into groundwater. These effects are described in Section 3.9.4.3. The elevated antimony and arsenic concentrations in groundwater are unlikely to improve in the future under the No Action Alternative."*

I urge you to approve the Stibnite Gold Project by finalizing the EIS choosing the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. Thank you for your consideration,

-Sam Field