

Ms. Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment for our Stibnite Gold Project. I have worked for Perpetua for 10 years and know that this project is designed to not only mine gold, but of course the critical mineral Antimony. I consider myself a conservationist or environmentalist who believes we need to utilize the resources that our earth has to offer but take care of the environment at the same time. We need to protect our world and mine in the U.S. where we have some of the strictest oversight on safety and environment, child labor laws, air and water quality regulations, etc

The legacy issues left at Stibnite have been worked into Perpetua's plan, the repair of blowout creek, the cleaning up of unconstrained tailings, the Hecla heap leach, etc if they do not do it, it will remain in the condition it is today which we all know is contaminating the ground and surface water. After reading the executive summary and particular sections of the SDEIS it appears that your review has found that for the most part, this project will not create much harm to the environment, wildlife or quality of life for anyone or anything.

- "Following their review of the environmental impacts as discussed in the SDEIS, the Forest Service has identified the 2021 MMP as their **Preferred Alternative** for the SGP because this alternative:
 - Incorporates water management and closure activities to reduce the duration of long-term water treatment requirements.
 - Incorporates measures to manage stream temperatures.
 - Reduces the potential for impacts associated with access, transportation, and hazardous materials on Johnson Creek and the East Fork SFSR downstream of the Operations Area Boundary.

The Agency Preferred Alternative would reasonably accomplish the purpose and need for the federal action, while giving consideration to environmental, economic, and technical factors." (ES-6)

Perpetua has worked with recreational groups over the years to make sure we focus on access to the areas they enjoy playing. The OSV access has been the predominant focus since the project will take away their access on Warm Lake Summit, however we rode the new proposed route with folks from the snowmobile advisory council to determine any areas of concern, look at the new route for grooming access ideas and make sure they had alternative OSV access. However it appears that the description of OSV access routes in Chapter 4.19, page 4-535 isn't entirely accurate. After conversing with Larry Laxson, Valley County Parks and Rec, we believe we need a few clarifications and requests for inclusion in the FEIS:

- Valley County does not groom Horn Creek Road, only grooms approximately 4 miles Burnt Log Road not 9.8 miles, and a few hundred feet of Sand Creek Road.
- Valley County does intend to continue grooming Landmark-Stanley Road and Sulphur Creek Road if the 2021 MMP is the chosen alternative. This route will allow riders to access additional area at the south end of the airstrip and around the south east side of Burntlog.
- Perpetua included an OSV trail along the south side of Warm Lake Road connecting Johnson Creek Road to Landmark-Stanley Road which is not described in this section. They proposed this connector to maintain access to the Landmark-Stanley Road.
- Plowing of Burntlog Route will not cut off access to trails east and south of Landmark. It's not ideal but snowmobile users can access these trails as long as there is a snow floor on the Burntlog Route and pull outs for snowmobilers to cool their sleds (if necessary).

Please make sure this information is included in the final EIS.

I would like to see the preferred alternative move forward so that Perpetua uses Johnson Creek during construction, but then once Burntlog Rd is finished then Johnson Creek would return to the recreationalists and the homeowners and visitors to Yellow Pine. It appears that this is the plan from the Forest Service perspective as well when I look at the following statement: **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." (Ch2. Pg. 2-18)

In addition, Perpetua has worked long and hard to educate our region on this project as well as listen to concerns from our neighbors, businesses, cities and counties. With the creation of the Stibnite Advisory Council and the Foundation we believe we have the tools in place to move this project through closure all the while having a platform with which to deal with actual impacts and concerns.

I believe we will have impacts, however I believe we have mapped out ways to work with our communities to address them. We have had a seat at the table to address housing concerns, we have spoken to schools about capacity and learned how funding works so we understand timing issues and have therefore helped to fund reading programs and classroom upgrades and encouraged steam education, we have talked with hospitals to understand potential limitations and helped to fund the growth of hospitals, we understand the need around daycare and after school programming and have helped to fund the after school programming in the region, we have spoken to regional EMS/fire departments and started working on joint training programs to make sure they understand what we have on site and how we can work together to address an issue if it arises. We currently have and will continue to refine a transportation plan with ITD and Valley County to address maintenance and intersection upgrades.

The economics of the Stibnite Gold Project have been thoroughly reviewed in five independent assessments. All of the studies to date have found the project will have a positive economic impact on the local community and Idaho as a whole. In fact, the SDEIS shows the project will create \$24.9 million in taxes annually and create thousands of jobs. This makes me question the validity of the Idaho Headwaters Economic Study.

The economic investments Perpetua Resources has already made in Idaho should be enough evidence to pause and question the validity of this supposed independent study by the Idaho Headwaters Economic Study.

The value of Perpetua as an employer in this region creates hope for those residents who travel to other areas of the country to have a job that pays a living wage in order to provide for their families. It will allow our kids to stay in the region to work and raise their own families, make a living wage and have benefits which is almost unheard of in Valley County. It shouldn't be just the rich and retired people who can afford to live here, our region will remain a bit stagnant until we can bring or keep more of our youth in the region. Besides, a diverse economy is a strong economy!

Thank you for your thorough review of our proposed project, it has been in front of experts for 6 years, it feels as though it should finally get to move forward.

I appreciate you taking the time, thank you.

Belinda Provancher