



Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov

January 9, 2023

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street, Building 2
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

As the Governor of Idaho, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS published on the Stibnite Gold Project.

Idaho is a land of many resources, and it is our job to steward these resources responsibly. The laws of the United States and the State of Idaho help us in this endeavor by establishing the standards for review and limiting unnecessary impacts. I appreciate the U.S. Forest Service's commitment of both staff and resources to the thorough review of this project and the multi-year collaboration with Idaho's state agencies. It is clear this process has resulted in many meaningful improvements to the environmental impacts of the project.

As a nation we must advance mineral development. As the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have demonstrated, our global supply chains are fragile and easily disrupted. Not to mention, China dominates the critical mineral supply chain for the building blocks of essential goods ranging from semiconductors to military munitions. This is why we need a domestic source of the critical mineral antimony. Without a secure, domestic, and responsible source, our technology manufacturing and defense industries are dependent on the whims of China, Russia, and non-allied nations. We cannot leave China and Russia in control of our future. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide the only domestically mined source of antimony.

With the right regulatory framework in place to ensure the Stibnite Gold Project meets state and federal standards, there is a unique opportunity for the Stibnite Gold Project to redevelop the historical Stibnite mining district to produce gold and antimony, restore this abandoned site, and bring economic development to rural Idaho. It is now more important that we ensure a timely, thorough, and fair decision on the Stibnite Gold Project.

Please reach out to my office directly if you need anything to help ensure an efficient process toward a final record of decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho