



STATE OF IDAHO
OFFICE OF THE STATE CONTROLLER
BRANDON D WOOLF

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. Jackson,

The Stibnite Gold Project is a unique opportunity for the State of Idaho to redevelop an abandoned mine site, produce critical minerals, and bring investment to our rural communities. I have had the opportunity to visit the Stibnite Gold Project mine site twice and I have followed this project for some time as a member of the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners.

Along with all Idahoans, I appreciate the additional layer of disclosure provided by the recently published Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. After review of the 2020 Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the updated 2022 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it is evident that the project design and anticipated environmental outcomes have been improved by the regulatory review process and incorporating public feedback. It is encouraging to see the process work as intended and lead to significant project enhancements.

The updated mine plan addresses concerns regarding stream temperature, water quality, and the project's footprint. I applaud efforts to reduce the size of Hangar flats pit by 70%, adding Stibnite Lake as both a habitat feature and a way to reduce summer maximum water temperatures, and the elimination of the Fiddle Development Rock Facility.

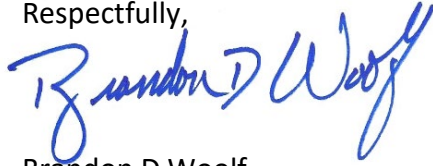
The U.S. Forest Service has also made a well-reasoned decision in identifying the Modified Mine Plan and the use of Burntlog Route as the Preferred Alternative. The analysis confirms that Burntlog Route reduces risk and mitigates potential disturbances to local residents and recreationalists. I also appreciate the decision to maintain access through the project location to recreational sites beyond the project site.

Finally, antimony is a critical mineral needed for a variety of important uses. One of the most is the use of it in hundreds of munition types required by the U.S. Military. Currently the United States is relying on China, Russia and Tajikistan, who control roughly 90% of the global supply, as we do not have a domestically mined source. The Stibnite project has a large antimony resource, 148 million pounds. When mined, this resource could satisfy about 35% of overall

commercial demand in the U.S. and for antimony and all Department of Defense demand. This is crucial and timely.

Detailed, scientific, and standard-based review of a project of this scale is critical. It is clear that the U.S. Forest Service has lead a thorough and vigorous analysis of the project. For this reason, and those listed above, I encourage your agency to move the Modified Mine Plan toward a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

Respectfully,



Brandon D Woolf
Idaho State Controller