Please accept the comments below in support of the Stibnite Gold Project.

I have followed the Stibnite Project for more a decade, since 2011. Over that time, I have been increasingly convinced that this project is overwhelmingly positive for the surrounding communities, Idaho, the USA, and the world. The preferred alternative in the SDEIS outlines many improvements to the project based on input, comments, concerns, and the effects analysis identified in the project DEIS process. In comparison to the previously outlined Project, in the DEIS, the preferred alternative reduces the size of the mined areas, reduces the size of the disposal areas, places synthetic liner material over the disposal areas, backfills the Hanger Flat pit, and reduces stream temperature by planting shading trees in the riparian area along the EFSFSR. These actions improve the water quality and fish habitat.

The Stibnite Project can be and is a world class showcase on how to socialize, to support and be involved in the local communities, to get public and stake holder input, to conduct site investigations with minimal disturbance and effect on the environment, to design and evaluate project alternatives, to conduct safety programs, to conduct on going environmental stewardship, to permit, to regulate, to re-design based on input, to design the project that will minimize transportation to site, to develop and execute a project on a previously mined area as outlined in the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. Specifically, the following is proposed: to provide access to over 6 miles of high-quality fish spawning habitat thereby benefiting and restoring fish spawning there, to restore natural flow to the EFSFSR river, to improve water quality in Meadow Creek and downstream by cleaning up legacy tailings and placing them to minimize contact with water, to reduce sediment from blowout creek by buttress ing/regrading/channelizing. The Stibnite Project will fund the full restoration of the site. There is no other proposal (nor likely a proposal) for full restoration if the Stibnite Project does not proceed.

The Perpetua 2021 Modified Mine was designated the preferred alternative in SDEIS. In this plan, the Burntlog Route was selected which is a much safer route with respect to sediment in stream, spills of chemical into stream, impact of mixed mine/recreationist/resident and potential traffic accidents, as well as minimizing risks of avalanche and rockfalls along the Johnson Creek Route alternative. I support the selection of the preferred alternative by using the Burntlog.

The United States (and all countries for that matter) need diverse economies which include responsible resource development not to be held hostage to or manipulated by source countries or the supply chain of commodities needed. Environmental standards, regulations, controls, policing, permitting, and licensing processes are required to ensure that domestic sources minimize the negative environmental cost. The need for domestic sources and stockpiles of critical minerals and energy is somewhat self-evident but is somewhat forgotten until inter-country conflict and political manipulation shows up, such as the Russia/Ukraine war/NATO sanctions and affect the oil and gas supply and prices for Europe and the world. This can also happen with other critical metals. While US political relations with the NATO nations has improved; relations with Russia and China have gotten worse and that threatens the supply of many critical minerals, of which many are controlled (either produced, processed, and/or owned) by China or Russia. Over the next few decades, as the US and the world move from more carbon dependent energy economies to energies that are more electricity based, the need for metals (many of which are less well-known) for battery storage, wind power and solar generation will dramatically increase. Some of these metals are cobalt, rare earths, lithium, nickel, antimony, and copper. Producing, processing, owning, stockpiling and control of the supply chain will become increasingly more important. Many responsible projects like the Stibnite Project are needed to source the metals needed in the future and to restore domestic industrial capabilities for national defense, technological development, and economic viability. Responsible

projects done in the US and other responsible countries can be done right versus in other jurisdictions. The US can set the example, the Stibnite Project can be the example.

The US has no domestic production of antimony, so all antimony used in the US needs to come from foreign sources. The USGS reports the 2021 world supply of antimony is 55% from China, 29% from Russia, 12% from Tajikistan and 10% from other. Antimony is listed as a critical mineral; it's used in the National Defense arena as a fire retardant for uniforms and equipment, to minimize infrared signature and for munitions. Antimony is in use in long life batteries for the electrical power grids and is expected to be needed for the transition to a net zero carbon power. And antimony is used in technology including semiconductors, printed circuits, wire coatings and cell phone screens. Recently China has systematically increased its control of the antimony market with purchase of mineral resources and processing facilities around the world. This is a clear threat to national security and economic vitality. The Stibnite Project could supply up to a quarter of the US needs within the first 9 years of operation. The Stibnite Project should be approved. To emphasize the critical nature of antimony, in a Dec 19, 2022, press release the Dept of Defense announced a $25 million grant to secure an American source of critical mineral for missiles and munition. This grant was provided to Perpetua to complete environmental and engineering studies necessary to obtain a Final Impact Statement, a Final Record of Decision, and other ancillary permits on the Stibnite Project in central Idaho.

The Stibnite Project is a showcase project and should go ahead because it can be an example a project well designed, reviewed and permitted. The subsequent steps are well operated, well controlled, and well closed.

Robert Barnes