

To whom it may concern at the Payette Forrest Service,

It was wonderful news to me when I discovered that the Preferred Alternative for the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) was the 2021 Modified Mine Plan (MMP). The changes that were included in the MMP, as a direct result of addressing comments and issues raised during the initial Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS), greatly strengthened and improved an already robust plan. The following are some of the highlights in my mind.

Constructing and using the Burntlog Route makes common sense every way that you look at it. It is a safer route all around. Fewer and smaller potential avalanche and landslide paths as compared to the catastrophic slide areas that the existing route already has, as highlighted by the massive slides that have happened almost yearly over the past 5 years. Human SAFETY should always be a priority, and the Burntlog Route addresses this. Furthermore, using the Burntlog Route moves the truck traffic and fuel hauls away from the major water ways of Johnson Creek and the EFSFSR, reducing the potential for an environmental spill due to a vehicle accident. One thing the Burntlog route does NOT do, is travel within the Frank Church Wilderness area, as some people claim. The year-round access to areas around the Burntlog Route will also provide increased opportunity for MORE recreation. I also believe that the new route would be a more fuel-efficient route by not having to lose and regain elevation as much. I have no technical data to support this belief, but this too would be an environmental benefit and reduces the carbon footprint of the SGP.

In terms of the mine itself, we all know that this is not a pristine wilderness site, and that it currently has numerous legacy issues. Without the SGP moving forward, the existing legacy waste materials on site will never get cleaned up, aside from the cleanup work that Perpetua Resources is already spending millions of dollars to do. The existing UNLINED tailings storage facility (TSF) will continue to leach contaminants into the watershed, as opposed to the modern, LINED, and capped TSF that the SPG would build after removing and reprocessing the legacy tailings. Additionally, by mining the known resources, the SGP would be actively moving rock and ore that contributes to degrading water quality. Lastly, a unique and fortunate benefit that this area already has, due to the proven rock chemistry, is that acid mine drainage (AMD) is not an issue. The existing legacy waste piles, despite being in place for decades, have not developed an AMD problem, therefore it is safe to say the SGP will also not generate AMD.

Without the SGP moving forward, fish passage beyond the existing open pit will never get reestablished without mining. For some reason the Nez Perce tribe continues to periodically translocate spawning fish upstream in the Meadow Creek, only to have the mature fish return in a futile effort to spawn. Being able to restore passage via the fish friendly EFSFSR stream diversion tunnel prior to mining even beginning, would be a huge win for everyone involved. I can't wait to see the first salmon return to historic spawning areas for the first time in nearly 100 years. In fact, if the SGP moves forward promptly, the offspring of the hundreds of salmon that were translocated during the summer of 2022 could be the first generation of successful Stibnite Salmon to return and not be blocked.

There are numerous other benefits the SGP will bring to the area, such as fixing Blowout Creek (the leading sediment contributor in the region), providing hundred of good paying jobs (direct employment of 500-600), community enrichment in the form of membership benefits from the existing Stibnite Advisory Council that almost all the communities in the area signed onto, as well as locally spent money and taxes. The list goes on and on. This doesn't even address the bigger picture that the SGP would be providing a domestically produced critical mineral, Antimony, that is much needed in MANY industries,

and is currently controlled by China and Russia. The SPG needs to happen, and in an efficient and timely manner. After seven years of in-depth NEPA review, it is time to move forward.

Sincerely,

Blaine Serrin

Site Environmental Geologist at the Stibnite Gold Project