

To: MS. Linda Jackson
Payette National Forest Supervisor
500 N. Mission Street Building 2
McCall ID 83638-3805
From: Ariana Fernandes
Date: 1/10/2023

RE: Stibnite Gold Project Draft EIS Public Com

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

I am writing to express my support towards the Stibnite Gold Project. As an individual with a background in environmental studies and a passion for conservation specifically maintaining species, land, and natural resources for future generations, I strongly believe that Perpetua Resources shares this same passion.

As a young adult, I volunteered at the Santa Cruz Native Animal Rescue, and saw firsthand the effects of natural causes versus human impacts. This experience really prompted me to focus my educational goals on wildlife in attempts to mitigate the consequences from human activities. I graduated from Boise State University with my undergraduate in environmental studies and a minor in GIS. The programs at Boise State only intensified my passion.

I must admit due to my background I never thought I would be writing a letter in support of a mining company, but here I am. Perpetua Resources is a unique mining company that has focused their efforts on cleaning up Stibnite due to the legacies left behind by past generations of mining activity. Stibnite has seen 100 years of mining activity and has been abandoned by past operations that have led to negative impacts to the environment including water quality degradation and blockage to fish migration routes. Fortunately, Perpetua Resources has already started to act to mitigate these crucial issues to the habitat by signing an agreement to improve water quality at Stibnite. The company also began a Baseline ground water and surface water monitoring program in 2012 that follows CERCLA and NEPA standards. Over this last Summer, Perpetua started its ASAOC Cleanup program and the company plans to complete this cleanup by 2024.

Perpetua's 2021 Modified Mining Plan (MMP) in the SDEIS, would continue Perpetua's efforts and actions to improve the environment at Stibnite. The MMP will improve water quality, eliminate the need for permanent water treatment, improve water temperature, and create a transportation route that is safest for both the environment and the community. The Preferred Alternative states:

The 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)

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project the environment needs that aligns with mitigating the impacts of human use. It has been in regulatory review for the past six years and is based off of the best available science. During this time, public comments and scientific analysis have helped to improve the plan. But now it is time to move it forward. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan presented by Perpetua Resources in the SDEIS, as expeditiously as possible. Let Perpetua show us a new Legacy at Stibnite. A legacy of restoration and reclamation in mining.

Thank you,
Ariana Fernandes
Environmental Data Analyst
Perpetua Resources