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Comments: Dear Ms. Jackson,

As a 5th generation Idahoan and an employee at Perpetua Resources, I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS that your agency has released on the Stibnite Gold Project.

As someone who went through the Boise Schools system and went to college in Colorado, I never thought that I would work for a mining company. I am honestly still surprised that I do. But when I first heard about the company, I was really excited about, and a little hesitant to believe, their commitment to restore Stibnite.

I had never heard of a mining company making the commitments and taking the actions that Perpetua, then Midas Gold, had been doing. It challenged all of my beliefs about mining and mining companies in Idaho. Throughout my whole life, I had learned about- and seen firsthand- what historic mining has done to Idaho.

In 2020, I had this incredible opportunity to join the Perpetua team as an intern in the External Affairs department. I decided to accept the position and I continued to learn more about the project.

I learned how modern financial assurance laws require mining companies to live up to their promises by setting the money needed for reclamation aside. Once calculated, the money needed for reclamation is held in bonds or other mechanisms by state and federal agencies to ensure that the site will be reclaimed whether or not the operating company goes bankrupt.

I met the people behind the project and learned that they care about seeing the site restored as much as I do. And I learned that they are experts in their fields.

I learned that due to past operators no longer being responsible for the site, and the site not being designated as a Superfund site, there aren't many options for restoring Stibnite. And that through mining, this site abandoned after a century of mining activity, could actually be restored.
And then I learned about antimony. And how important it is to our national defense and a green energy future.

It made me realize that we can't have a future powered by renewable energy without a dramatic increase in mining. And then I read the May 2021 report from the International Energy Agency which concluded that a green energy future is 6 times more mineral intensive than one powered by oil and gas. Let me say that again, a green energy future will be SIX TIMES more mineral intensive than one powered by oil and gas.

No one was talking about how mining intensive a green future would be. Here I had been supporting the energy transition, but I was ignorant to the massive role mining must play in this transition.

When you look into where cobalt, lithium and rare earth minerals are mined today, you learn that they are often produced in countries with very limited environmental and labor regulations; such as China and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Which led me to realize how much better it is to mine it here. Because I know that there are good people running our mining companies, that we have some of the best environmental regulations in the world, that mining provides well-paying jobs (often in rural areas), that the eco-footprint is smaller when the minerals are produced where the end product will be consumed, and so much more.
I was hired right at the end of the Draft EIS comment period, and I saw firsthand how the Perpetua team read

through every comment that was submitted and used the feedback to refine the Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations (ModPRO) into what would eventually become ModPRO2 or the 2021 Modified Mine Plan.

The technical team at Perpetua and the company's consultants worked diligently to address public concerns around water quality, stream temperature and the project footprint. Some of the changes they made included reducing the size of Hangar Flats pit by 70%, eliminating the Fiddle Development Rock Storage Facility (DRSF), adding Stibnite Lake to help buffer maximum water temperatures, planting taller and wider riparian vegetation, etc.

And the SDEIS shows that Perpetua's MMP and the changes they made, will lead to net benefits when it comes to fish habitat and water quality-- and that the Burntlog Route is really the safest way to access Stibnite.

As someone who has drove to the mine site numerous times, faced dangerously fast recreational traffic and seen firsthand how close the waterways are to the roadside, it is clear to me that the Burntlog route would be the safest way into Stibnite.

But what gets me most excited, and why I originally joined the company, is the plan to restore Stibnite. Perpetua began doing so this summer by re-routing waterways away from contaminated materials, 325,000 tons of which will be picked up and safely stored next summer. And due to both Perpetua's plan to conduct operations and restoration concurrently and modern financial assurance laws, I truly believe that this project is the best solution for Stibnite.

I am grateful for the opportunity to show my support for this project, and I hope that the Forest Service permits this project using the 2021 MMP so that we can finally see Stibnite restored.

Best,
Alyssa Terteling
Public Affairs Specialist
Perpetua Resources