

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2023 4:12:29 AM

First name: Alexander

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: January 9th, 2022

Attn: Linda Jackson,

Payette Forest Supervisor

500 North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

RE: Stibnite Gold Project SDEIS

Dear Ms. Jackson,

As a current Board Member of Perpetua Resources, I appreciate the opportunity to comment and offer my support for the 2021 Modified Mine Plan in the Supplemental Draft EIS. I have had the good fortune to see -first hand- the thoughtful development of the Stibnite Gold project and the hard work of the Perpetua team to bring it closer to reality.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine illustrate the fragility of our supply chains and the danger of our dependence on non-allied nations for critical minerals. Without secure and domestic sources of minerals for the products we need, America forfeits our leadership position in the global economy, our energy independence, and our defense readiness. Recognizing this vulnerability, President Biden's Executive Order 14017 on American Supply Chains, and subsequent supply chain resilience report, both clearly call for the prioritization of responsible domestic mining, and the Stibnite Gold Project answers that call.

The Stibnite Gold Project offers just the opportunity our nation needs at the time we need it most. Perpetua's Stibnite Gold Project will provide the only avenue to secure a domestic source of antimony which is the first link in the supply chain for products ranging from semiconductors to clean energy technologies and defense materials. Unfortunately, China, Russia, and Tajikistan produce 90% of the global supply of antimony and the U.S. is left without a primary source. Yet, the Stibnite Gold Project offers the only identified reserve of antimony in the nation (USGS, 2022 Mineral Commodity Report) - a resource that is one of the largest known sources of antimony not controlled by the Chinese and their interests. The Stibnite project has enough antimony to meet ~35% of U.S. antimony commercial demand in the first six years of production and could meet the entirety of U.S. defense needs.

This supply of antimony will play an important role in our energy independence and combatting climate change through Perpetua Resources' partnership with Ambri, a U.S. company producing liquid metal batteries to store grid-scale clean energy. These batteries require two ingredients, antimony and calcium and a U.S. source of antimony lowers the carbon and social footprint of these batteries and assists manufacturing the units in the U.S. At a minimum, antimony from Stibnite will help produce enough battery storage to power a million American homes with solar power every day for twenty years. That is a meaningful step forward on improving our climate outlook.

Redeveloping an abandoned mine site to produce gold and the critical mineral antimony should be easy call to make, especially when a private company is willing to take on the environmental remediation required to address abandoned features that degrade water quality and fish habitat at the site. I appreciate that the rigorous environmental review process lead by your office has improved the project; the Supplemental Draft EIS illustrates the project will now leave water quality dramatically improved with a 47% drop in arsenic concentrations in the river compared to today. Without the Stibnite Gold Project, and the stewardship offered by Perpetua Resources, this location will remain one of the many abandoned environmental liabilities on public lands.

So, what does responsible mining look like? In my view, Perpetua Resources has presented a clear, viable and well considered plan. The following actions taken by Perpetua Resources should give the administration and your agency great comfort that this company is setting the example we need to foster responsible mining practices: Committed to take on the environmental restoration of an abandoned mine site,

Initiated a community agreement that guarantees direct access to company leadership and technical information through the life of the project,
Instituted a profit-sharing foundation that provides ~1% of profits every year into a community-based endowment,
Started a citizen's water monitoring program to provide direct transparency and accountability into water quality outcomes,
Commissioned a third-party tailings storage facility review,
Developed a dark-skies best practices plan and commitment, and
Prioritized a partnership with clean energy technology company Ambri, to provide antimony for the manufacturing of the liquid metal battery.

I appreciate your work on this project and would encourage that the remainder of the process be completed within the published timeframe. After six years of review and multiple rounds of public input and plan revision, this project is ready to move forward.

Yours truly,

Alex Sternhell