

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest  
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor  
500 North Mission Street  
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Supervisor Jackson—

My hat is off to your office for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The dedication of your personnel and their commitment to science and environmental protection is evident throughout this extensive report. For this, my thanks. It is also a main reason why we don't need to expand the comment period past 60 days. People have had plenty of time to review the document.

The area under consideration has clearly been impacted by historical mining. You can of course see the evidence with your naked eye – from open pits to barren land. As the DEIS clearly states, “Past-mining impacts have resulted in long-term impacts to the natural topography and the SGP activities could result in removal and/or stabilization of these past-mining impacts.... Past mining activities in the area were conducted with little, if any, geotechnical planning and oversight [sic].”

While most of the Alternatives (with the exception of Alternative 5) would engage in some level of restoration, Alternative 2 is the best option for environmental restoration. Alternative 2 would do the most to improve water quality in the area as well as restore riparian and aquatic ecosystems.

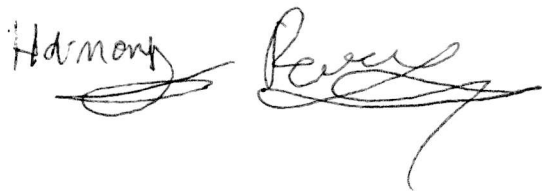
The findings in the DEIS make the environmental case for Alternative 2. For example, Alternative 2 will remove barriers to fish migration on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. This will improve fish populations and increase genetic diversity. A temporary tunnel for fish will later be replaced by a restored riverbed. Improved fish populations will in turn benefit other wildlife that depend on fish and roe for feeding.

Alternative 2 also removes and safely stores waste from historic mining sites, which will improve water quality. According to the DEIS, the removal of tailings and other mining waste will lower concentrations of antimony and arsenic in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, as well as in area groundwater and surface water. Sediment and associated problems will also be reduced in Meadow Creek under Alternative 2.

The sooner environmental remediation and reclamation begins, the better. We will see swift progress under Alternative 2, whereas Alternatives 3 and 4 both entail delays of at least two years. (Alternative 2 is an improvement on Alternative 1, and Alternative 5—leaving the area as-is—in not a reasonable option.) For the same reason—timeliness—I encourage your office to approve the SGP without any extension of the review period.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I look forward to seeing this project move forward in the near future.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harmony Perez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.