

I am a geologist and geochemist with over 20 years of experience in both academia and the private sector in energy and mineral resources and environmental protection (including aquatic ecology early in my career). My family and I have followed the project development and permitting processes for the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Perpetua Resources (nee Midas Gold) since its initial proposal. Although we formally live in the Treasure Valley, we have a home near McCall and business interests in Valley and adjacent areas of Adams County. We are avid, four-season outdoor recreationists, and spend considerable time in the backcountry enjoying the natural beauty that has been protected by responsible resource development in the Payette National Forest. We also enjoy the healthy service economy in Valley County that make tourism, business activities, and recreation accessible. It is our feeling that allowing the Stibnite Gold Project to move forward is an essential part of maintaining the way of life in the West Central Mountains.

America (and much of the world) is riddled with remnants of past mining activities that fueled human development but were also carried out without a full understanding of the environmental consequences that unremediated mining can cause. Such is the case with the Stibnite site. Prior mining at this site was essential to the very existence of our country due to the need for antimony during World War II. Our republican government that protects our way of life, its components such as the USFS, and perhaps not even the sovereign Native American tribes would still be in existence had we not had access to this resource. Sadly, past mining practices at Stibnite ceased without proper remediation of the site, leaving critical salmon habitat endangered among other environmental concerns. Partial remediation of the site occurred in the past, but full recovery, especially of critical salmonid waters, requires significant further funding. Fortunately, there is a private sector response available to rehabilitate this site, but it hinges on the financial assets that Perpetua proposes to extract. I have carefully reviewed the plans for the site, including the remediation plan, and in my professional and personal opinion, successful completion of this work will lead to significant long-term improvement in the environmental situation there.

A variety of economic, geopolitical, and cultural factors had led to considerable atrophy of our country's ability to supply itself with raw mineral materials. Antimony is an excellent example of this. Currently, the U.S. relies largely on imports of this critical metal which is essential for flame retardants, lead-acid batteries, advanced electronics, and other applications. The main source of these imports is China, which perpetually presents a supply security concern due to unstable trade relations and uncertainty about antimony production in that country. Few primary antimony deposits occur in the U.S., and ore reserves at these are small. The Stibnite site hosts the largest single antimony reserve in the U.S. Like many antimony deposits, the antimony co-occurs with other metals of economic value such as gold. While it is certainly true that Perpetua will derive most of its income from gold production at the site, the production of critical byproduct materials such as antimony is a necessary national security benefit.

Having been involved in minerals permitting in the past, I am quite confident that the development and review process for Perpetua's plans at Stibnite has been thorough. It is time for the U.S. to be serious about maintaining its mineral extraction capabilities, and allowing the Stibnite project to move forwards is a timely example.

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