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First name: Samuel

Last name: Stoddard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: 01/07/2023

Linda Jackson

Payette Forest Supervisor

500 N. Mission Street, Building 2

McCall, Idaho, 83638-3805

Re: Stibnite Gold Project SDEIS

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Our names are Samuel Stoddard and Veronica Silva Soto. We are permanent residents of Valley County and own a home near Cascade. Veronica grew up in Chile, (now a US citizen), so is very familiar with the mining industry and it's socio-economic pros and cons. I spent my entire working life in construction including 32 years on industrial projects. Fifteen years of my construction career were on mining projects around the world many of which are very similar to the Stibnite Gold Project including the Pascua Lama Gold Project on the border of Chile and Argentina.

As you are well aware, to date Perpetua Resources is an exploration company and not a mining company. They have neither the experience nor the resources to execute a complex project the magnitude of the SGP. They will likely fail if they are given the approval to proceed. They lost the only partner they had with any actual mining experience, Barrick Gold. Now their majority share holders are investment bankers. Based on what I have seen happen under similar circumstances they will likely fail to execute as planned. Another possibility is that they sell to one of the large multinational mining companies like Barrick if the project is approved and goes forward. In either scenario, at a minimum, the consequences could be disastrous for the environment and the communities.

With Veronica having grown up in an economy that is very reliant on the mining industry and myself having spent 15 years of my career working on mining projects we are not anti-mining. On the contrary, we are in favor of mining for the right metals for the right reasons and when it's done responsibly. Therefore, we find it impossible to support a project that is for the extraction of principally, gold which has the following industry demand percentages: jewelry 48.5%, investment and banking 44% and technology 7.5%.

Recently Perpetua Resource has gotten a lot public relations mileage from the fact that the Biden Administration has issued executive orders regarding the mining of antimony. In addition as you are likely well aware the DOD awarded Perpetua nearly \$25 million to assist them in the permitting process and an eventual mining of antimony. Perpetua has also made much out of the possibility that antimony might have some usefulness in green energy technology. However anyone who understands the mining industry knows that the antimony Perpetua Resources is now making so much noise about will be sold to foreign governments like China for final smelting and refining and likely be mixed into their normal feedstock. The USA will then be buying it back from them as refined antimony or in other products just as we are doing now. Because of the Federal Government in essence putting their thumb on the scale in favor of Perpetua we sincerely doubt any resistance to the SGP will be given fair consideration.

We will not spend time trying to convince you of the importance of the area where this project is located since given your position we are sure you are well aware of this special part of our state not to mention our river system. The Stoddard family from which I come are Idaho natives for 5 generations. They started in the lumber industry in the Island Park area of Eastern Idaho so we are no strangers to Idaho's legacy of mining and logging

and are in fact proud of it. However, having grown up in this special place we also highly value the beautiful and unique nature of Idaho and that we have managed to preserve the largest wilderness area in the continental United States. I floated the Middle Fork of The Salmon River with my father in 1964 when I was 12 years old. These are the type of memories that I want my grandchildren and great grandchildren to have of Idaho. Not the vision of a 425 acre tailings impound sitting next to the Frank Church River Of No Return Wilderness Area and on the headwaters of one of the most important and beautiful rivers in Idaho. There is also the thought that it will still be there for their great grandchildren to live with, and theirs, and theirs and..... Worse yet is the knowledge of what could happen if the tailings dam fails.

Ms. Jackson, we urge the Forest Service and our government to do the right thing and reject the project based on the very obvious cost/benefit evaluation for our State and the information and impacts pointed out in this SDEIS. Lastly, we find it indefensible that we, the citizens, were only given 75 days to review and comment on this highly complex and lengthy document after the Forest Service had 3 years to prepare the DEIS and another year and half to prepare the SDEIS. Perpetua Resources had over 10 years to prepare the supporting documents. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,  
Veronica Silva Soto  
Samuel Stoddard  
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