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Comments: January 10, 2023

Linda Jackson

Payette Forest Supervisor

500 North Mission Street

McCall, Idaho 83638

Payette Forest Service

Subject: Support of the Stibnite Gold Project

Dear Payette Forest Supervisor Jackson:

I am writing to express support for Perpetua's Stibnite Gold Project and to provide my comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS) documents prepared by the Forest Service (FS). I am a property owner in Valley County, Idaho where the project is located and a frequent recreational user of the public lands in close proximity to the project. As such I have had a genuine interest in the project beginning with my review and commenting of the project DEIS. Further, I have over 40 years of experience directly involved in the environmental management of several global mining operations of the scale and type as the Stibnite Gold, particularly in the Intermountain and Great Basin regions of the U.S. and in Alaska.

I supported Alternative 2 in the project DEIS as it provided significant environmental enhancements to an area heavily impacted by legacy mining activities and in particular the expanded development of the Burntlog Road for mine access as alternative to the use of the Johnson Creek Road. I believe this will greatly reduce risks of landslides and avalanches disrupting mine traffic, enhancing the safety of mine employees and suppliers as well as significantly avoiding travel conflicts with local Yellow Pine community residents and area recreationists. I was encouraged to see and continue to support this as now a part of your agency's Preferred Alternative in the SEIS. The planned onsite accommodations for mine employees provides similar transportation benefits through reduced mine related traffic along the entire mine access route benefitting people and wildlife.

The SEIS thoroughly details the environmental issues related to the historic Stibnite mining operations currently impacting the region's environment and ecosystem. I believe the alternative identified as your agency's Preferred Alternative provides the best option for removing and reclaiming legacy mine materials that have been releasing heavy metals into surface and ground waters for decades. The SEIS has used the best science in understanding the existing environment and the impacts that would be associated with the project particularly in the areas of mined material geochemistry, surface and ground water hydrology and quality and aquatic biota (especially resident and anadromous fish species).

The selection of the 2021 Modified Mine Plan, especially the attendant mine monitoring and closure plans, as your agency's Preferred Alternative provides significant environmental, social and economic benefits. I support your agency completing the permitting process for the Perpetua Stibnite Gold Project and issuing a final EIS and ROD approving your agency's Preferred Alternative as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

HALEY & ALDRICH, INC.

Bill Upton  
Senior Associate, Mining