



January 5, 2023

Re: U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor 500 North Mission Street, Building 2 McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Perpetua Resources' proposed Stibnite Gold Project. If approved, the Stibnite Gold Project has the strong potential to provide benefits to our state's entire economy and would likely have a positive impact on local families, communities, and schools throughout the region.

Our comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is to help illustrate the important role active community partners play in advancing student achievement and community wellbeing.

Over the last decade our schools have benefited from continued support and engagement from Perpetua Resources. Perpetua Resources has proven themselves a willing and valuable partner for schools throughout Valley, Adams and Idaho County. This engagement has included:

- Annual coat drive that provides hundreds of coats, hats, gloves and boots to local students.
- Volunteering almost 2,000 hours of their time doing instruction in classrooms and after school programming since 2013.
- Purchasing and provided much needed school supplies from backpacks to graphing calculators on an annual basis. If one of these schools has a need, Perpetua has always risen to the occasion in supporting and supplying much needed materials.
- Perpetua has partnered with the Idaho STEM Action Center to support local teachers being able to attend continuing education courses focused on how to use STEM focused materials and content in classrooms.

- Perpetua also increased access to STEM supplies by working with local communities to provide access to a sharing program for STEM kits by donating both materials and funds. These kits are located at local libraries for teachers, students and community members to check out and then return.
- Perpetua also has helped with matching funds for Cascade Science Classroom upgrades, and they have provided support for graphing calculators to Council HS students.
- Perpetua also contributed worm composting materials to each school to support science and gardening learning.
- Perpetua has run a tree planting program where local students can go to Stibnite to learn about the role trees play in an ecosystem and to plant trees. Perpetua then contributes \$1 for every tree planted to the school program the kids choose.
- Perpetua contributes significantly to the Cascade After School Programming providing lesson plans, supplies and volunteer time supporting the local youth in having a safe place to go after school and provides hands-on STEM activities ranging from learning about geology to building and launching their own rockets.
- The company also generously supports local athletic teams, ball parks and recreational programs keeping our kids active and engaged.
- To help local students achieve their career aspirations, Perpetua has offered over \$50,000 in scholarship opportunities to further the higher education of 39 students since 2015.

As you know, Idaho has experienced considerable growth in recent years. Our schools have been able to adapt to student population growth. I am more than confident that local schools can work with Perpetua and state resources within our agency to respond to growth and continue to serve Idaho students and families.

Sincerely,



Debbie Critchfield

Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction