

I have been closely following Perpetua Resources' plans for several years. The Stibnite Gold Project presents an opportunity to restore an abandoned mine site and provide our nation with the critical minerals we need. I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on their SDEIS.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Under Perpetua's the 2021 Modified Mine Plan, the company will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water. This would be a huge win for the site because today arsenic and antimony levels far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Perpetua's water treatment during operations will further lower levels of these metals in the river and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions. What is more impressive to me is the improvements Perpetua made to its plan following the DEIS. Now, the company will no longer need long-term water treatment at site following mining. The project size has been reduced by 13% when compared with the original design. And changes have been made at site to make sure water temperature stays at or below the current temperatures on site. The site needs to be remediated and Perpetua has a plan to do it the right way.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the 2021 Modified Mine Plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider the positive benefits Perpetua Resources will have on Idaho, especially now that the company has reduced its environmental footprint and made further improvements to water quality. This truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment. After years of careful scrutiny by regulators and the community, it is time for us to make these benefits a reality.

MaryEllen Fox