

I am writing to express my views on Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the project is compelling for many reasons and I am committed to seeing come to fruition. This is the best opportunity to clean up legacy tailings and waste, reconnect fish to miles of spawning grounds that they have been blocked from for 80 years and restore a river. Without Perpetua Resources, the site will likely never get the environmental attention it deserves.

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.

Let Idahoans see the benefits of the Stibnite Gold Project. The USFS has reviewing the project for the last six years. During this time, the company has reduced the project size by 13% in the SDEIS, decreased maximum water temperature to keep it at or below baseline conditions and eliminated the need for long-term water treatment. The review process is working and now we need regulators to advance the project as expeditiously as possible.

Erick Cheshire