

I am proud to submit my comments in support of Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Gold Project. This project presents our state with an incredible opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost our state's economy and provide our nation with the much-needed critical mineral antimony. Today, America relies on China and Russia to provide us with antimony. The Stibnite Gold Project could help us secure a domestic source of antimony.

There are many checks and balances in place to ensure Perpetua Resources follows through on its promises to restore the site. In fact, the company is required by law to set aside all of the money it needs for restoration before mining can begin. However, I am not worried about Perpetua staying true to its word. The company has already started restoration work at the site. They have planted more than 60,000 trees to help reduce the amount of sediment going into the river, installed solar energy panels at site to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improved miles of road along the river to protect fish habitat. However, what's more impressive to me is the changes the company has made following the comments they received on the DEIS. They took the feedback from stakeholders to heart and looked at ways to further improve the plan. In the 2021 Modified Mine Plan, the company has eliminated the Fiddle Development Rock Storage Facility, which shrinks the footprint by 168 acres, the size of the Hanger Flats pit was reduced by 70%, mined material was reduced by 10% and there is no longer the need for long-term water treatment. With the additional improvements, I feel strongly that the project should move forward – especially because it would allow us to secure a domestic source of antimony.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward. The permitting process is designed to advance the best plans possible. I believe the work of regulators over the past six years is proof this is what is happening with the Stibnite Gold Project. The thorough review process has been beneficial but there should be no more delays. The project should move forward in a timely manner.

Howard Shelmerdine