

The Stibnite Gold Project presents a big opportunity for Idaho. Without this project, the conditions at Stibnite will likely never get better. Fish will continue to be blocked from their spawning grounds by an abandoned mine pit and legacy tailings will continue to degrade water quality. The project also presents an opportunity for America. It could help secure a domestic source of antimony, so we can stop our import reliance on this critical mineral. This is an important project and I appreciate the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of Perpetua Resources' public permitting process.

I understand that in order for Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Gold project to move forward, the company must meet strict state and federal regulations. This gives me faith in the project and process. In addition to a positive record of decision through the NEPA process, Perpetua Resources will still need to obtain up to 50 other permits, approvals and conditions ranging from the Clean Water Act to providing financial assurances for restoration. The Forest Service cannot approve the project without ascertaining that all of these approvals are issued and conditions met. I support Perpetua Resources' plans to restore the site, bring hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and mine gold and antimony as outlined under the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. I am appreciative of the additional work the company has done to limit its project footprint, improve water temperatures on the site and eliminate long-term water treatment.

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.

Tom Hester