

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.

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.

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select the 2021 Modified Mine Plan Perpetua Resources presented and permit the project.

Susan Atherton