

America desperately needs antimony. This mineral is used in munitions, large-capacity storage batteries, fire retardants and more. Currently, we are entirely dependent on foreign countries to provide this mineral, which is why I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. This project can stop our import reliance on antimony.

I have reviewed the 2021 Modified Mine Plan and I believe the Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity to repair the environment and bring an economic boost to the community. The plans proposed by the company allows the project to finance environmental reclamation and provide the workforce and resources necessary to complete it. If Perpetua Resources isn't allowed to move forward with its plan, this area in Idaho's backcountry will continue to suffer. Currently, salmon are being blocked from their native spawning grounds and hundreds of tons of sediment are pouring into the watershed each year. It is beyond time to address these issues and Perpetua has the right plan to do it. The company made its plans even better after the release of the DEIS. In the 2021 Modified Mine Plan the company reduced the project footprint by 13 percent (compared to the original design), cut back on mined material by 10 percent and eliminated the need for long-term water treatment. In reviewing the document, I think the company is taking the steps needed to protect the area and mine the area safely using the Burntlog Route.

This project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. After 6 years of intense review, I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit the 2021 Modified Mine Plan so this brownfield site can finally be restored.

Douglas Ferguson