

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.

I support the 2021 Modified Mine Plan of the SDEIS. Under this plan, Perpetua Resources will help mitigate the damages left by previous mining projects, bring hundreds of well-paying jobs to Valley County and provide the only domestically mined source of antimony in the country. This project would allow our nation to rely less on foreign countries for critical minerals and reduce our carbon footprint by sourcing minerals at home. Environmental regulations are stricter in the United States and when minerals are sourced in this country we do not have to expend as much energy and resources transporting them to their final destination. The 2021 Modified Mine Plan is economically and technically feasible. It also improves upon the company's originally submitted plans. With the new updates, Perpetua has eliminated the need for long-term water treatment, kept water temperatures on site at or below current temperatures, improves water quality and shrinks the size of the project footprint by 13 percent. It is clear it is the best choice moving forward.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Perpetua Resources' project as outlined in the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. At this point, the Stibnite Gold Project has been studied by regulators for the last six years. That is enough. Now, it is time to let Perpetua get to work.

kim Nichols