

Public participation is a huge part of the permitting process and I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on the SDEIS. This project is important to me because it can provide America with a domestically mined source of antimony and restore an abandoned mine site in need of repair.

Perpetua Resources has made it clear reclamation efforts will start alongside operations. For example, before mining ever begins, fish will be reconnected to their native spawning groups upstream through a fish passageway. Perpetua Resources also identified more ways to help fish populations. Originally, the company proposed not replacing the pit lake at the Yellow Pine Pit, however, a pit lake is included in the 2021 Modified Mine Plan to make sure currently used habitat is replaced and available for the fish that use it today. The company is also adding more plantings along waterways to reduce water temperatures for fish. Perpetua also has proposed using Burnt Log Road in order to keep vehicles away from precious waterways. I am impressed by the improvements the company made to its plan based on public feedback.

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.

SHARON KOESTER