

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plans for the Stibnite Gold Project. Over the last several years, I've had the opportunity to hear a handful of presentations on the project, sit down with members of Perpetua Resources and observe how the company has lived out its mission as it has grown. It is with this knowledge that I encourage you to move the project forward.

Private industry is needed to restore the Stibnite Gold Project site. Unfortunately, the federal government attempted to restore the area but problems in the area still persist today. Perpetua wants to restore the site through mining. The company has spent the last 12 years studying the environment of the site, gathering input from the community and carefully analyzing many options to mine and perform restoration work. After the DEIS, the company identified even more improvements. I was so pleased with what I saw in the SDEIS with the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. There is no longer a need for long-term water treatment, water quality conditions are improved, the project footprint is even smaller and there is no longer a need for the Fiddle Development Rock Storage Facility. The Stibnite Gold Project is clearly well thought out, practical and environmentally sound. I encourage you to adopt the Burnt Log Road option outlined in the SDEIS. Continuing to use existing roads, especially as the project ramps up, is just too risky given the avalanche history and proximity to waterways. It would put construction and mine traffic adjacent to miles of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, increasing the chance of spills. Burnt Log is clearly a safer option for all of us.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward. The permitting process is designed to advance the best plans possible. I believe the work of regulators over the past six years is proof this is what is happening with the Stibnite Gold Project. The thorough review process has been beneficial but there should be no more delays. The project should move forward in a timely manner.

Laura McKenzie