

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. The project will help restore the site, secure the minerals we need for our national security and strengthen America's supply chains. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

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 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.

Virginia Patrick