

Dear Forest Service,

I am a recreationalist who has spent years of my life on our rivers and our mountains. I am very familiar with the history of the Stibnite mining area.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. It's still a dangerous mess. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Perpetua (then Midas) offered regular tours of the site that showed the problems created by these old mining operations. They also have worked hard to come up with plans to clean the brownfield site, institute new, modern and highly rated mining practices.

According to Perpetua's 2021 Modified Mine Plan, the company will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water. This would be a huge win for the site because today arsenic and antimony levels far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Perpetua's water treatment during operations will further lower levels of these metals in the river and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions.

What is more impressive to me is the improvements Perpetua made to its plan following the initial draft environmental impact study. I thought the original was good, but that has been improved.. Now, the company will no longer need long-term water treatment at site following mining. The project size has been reduced by 13% when compared with the original design. And changes have been made at site to make sure water temperature stays at or below the current temperatures on site.

The site needs to be remediated and Perpetua has a plan to do it the right way, while supporting our need for mining valuable minerals.

Thank you for reviewing my comments. Again, after the USFS has lead a rigorous review process, I urge you to permit Perpetua Resources' carefully thought out plan as outlined under the 2021 Modified Mine Plan.

Scott Pressman