

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.

Restoring the Stibnite Gold Project site will be an incredible investment. Work clearly needs to be done in the area but it should not be funded through taxpayer dollars. Fortunately, Perpetua Resources wants to make the investment. The company is proposing a mining project and full-scale restoration project. They have plans to reconnect fish with their natural spawning grounds. Perpetua will also improve water quality and temperature. After the comments from the DEIS were analyzed, the company recognized it could do more in those areas. They added wider and taller riparian vegetation plantings around stream channels, as well as including a widened and deepened portion of the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River Channel in the Yellow Pine pit backfill. The company will also solve sedimentation issues by repairing Blowout Creek.

Perpetua Resources wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. After reviewing the project for six years, I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the project forward with the improvements laid out in the SDEIS.

Romaine Whetstone