

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the NEPA Comment Period. I have been closely following Perpetua Resources' plans since they first came into our state, in large part because some of the proposed project will take place on public land. The more I have learned about the project, the more excited I am about the possibilities. The Stibnite Gold Project could help us restore an abandoned mine site.

Today, steelhead and Chinook salmon cannot access spawning grounds because they are blocked by an abandoned mining pit. Perpetua will address this issue before mining even begins – reconnecting fish for the first time in more than 80 years. The company will build a fish passageway in the short term. Based on professional judgement and similar or longer tunnels, the SDEIS concludes Perpetua's tunnel would provide passage for all four special status fish species at site. It is important to note Perpetua will eventually restore full access to 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of fish spawning habitat above the Yellow Pine pit. If we do not allow Perpetua to move forward with their plans, it is highly unlikely anyone else will provide the funds needed to reconnect fish to this currently lost habitat.

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.

Walter Kocher