

Perpetua Resources has been a member of our community for the past decade. During this time, the company and its employees have become wonderful champions and supporters of Idaho. They've volunteered their time in our schools and given generously to community causes. Perpetua Resources' track record of following through on its promises and doing the right thing gives me the confidence to write in support of permitting the Stibnite Gold Project.

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.

The Stibnite Gold Project has been under federal review for the last six years. That has given regulators and the public plenty of time to review the company's plan. I know this project will transform an area in need of environmental repair and secure a domestic supply of antimony. It is for all of these reasons that I encourage you to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward.

Judy Bardin