

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.

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.

Reviewing Perpetua Resources' improved plans it is clear to me the company really believes in taking care of the environment and keeping the community safe. That is why they reduced water temperatures, improved water quality and shrunk the project footprint by 13 percent. I urge you to trust in your own review process and permit the Stibnite Gold Project.

Paul Lowenstein