



## Idaho House of Representatives

700 W Jefferson Street  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0038

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest  
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor  
500 North Mission Street, Building 2  
McCall, ID 83638

RE: Support the Perpetua Resources Stibnite Gold Project

Attention Ms. Linda Jackson,

Thank you for releasing the supplemental draft EIS for Perpetua Resources Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. I am writing to express my support for this unique opportunity to utilize private industry to not only reclaim an abandoned mine site but to also provide the minerals our nation needs.

As an Idaho State Representative, my promise to my constituents is to always seek out new opportunities to better their lives and secure a bright future for our state. I am confident this project will provide a critical boost to Idaho's economy while also reviving a crucial piece of our state's environment. I hope you will consider the following comments throughout the rest of your evaluation.

Perpetua is using the Stibnite Gold Project as an opportunity to clean up damage left from over 100 years of mining in the Stibnite Mining District. Working closely with state, federal and local officials, the company has designed a plan that will ensure Idaho's lands and waterways are restored. Currently, both the salmon and steelhead fish populations that pass-through Stibnite are blocked and cannot return to the headwaters of the Salmon River.

During construction of the mine site, Perpetua will be a nearly mile long fish tunnel to reconnect native fish species with over 25 miles of habitat that has been inaccessible for over 80 years. By restoring the connection between waterways, Perpetua will have created a longstanding solution to fish migration in the region ensuring a lasting impact. In fact the supplemental draft EIS supports this claim. In chapter 4, it says "The greatest benefit to Chinook salmon and steelhead passage comes in Mine Year -1 with the construction of the fishway, which would allow these species to volitionally access habitat that they have not naturally accessed for decades." (4.12.2;p.4-343)

Restoration is expensive, and without government funding, will require private investment for restoration to ever be feasible. And the Stibnite Gold Project brings that to the table. Perpetua's Stibnite Gold Project is an offer Idaho cannot turn away. I am encouraged by the Forest's Services' decision to declare Perpetua's 2021 MMP as the preferred alternative and it is my hope that the agency permits this project so that it can commence as soon as possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Andrus".

Kevin Andrus

Idaho House of Representatives – District 35