

I have reviewed Perpetua Resources' plans and met with members of their team to better understand the Stibnite Gold Project. I am impressed with the company's commitment to use modern mining to leave the area better than they found it, while providing our nation with the minerals we need. Below are my comments on the plan to be included in the project record.

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.

Tom Terteling