

I have been closely following Perpetua Resources' plans for several years. The Stibnite Gold Project presents an opportunity to restore an abandoned mine site and provide our nation with the critical minerals we need. I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on their SDEIS.

Regulators named Perpetua Resources' improved plan as its preferred alternative because the company proved it could mine safely while minimizing its impacts to the environment and community. Perpetua Resources will be transporting hazardous materials to and from the site, which is why I am grateful the USFS recognizes Burntlog Road is a safer option because it minimizes river crosses and rarely parallels waterways. As long as there is activity at the site, there will always be the possibility a spill could occur. However, the SDEIS concluded the duration of any single incident involving hazardous materials would only last hours or days and would likely be readily cleaned up and contained without any release to the environment. The SDEIS shows me Perpetua really can leave the site better than they found it.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Perpetua Resources' project as outlined in the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. At this point, the Stibnite Gold Project has been studied by regulators for the last six year. That is enough. Now, it is time to let Perpetua get to work.

Jon Carpenter