

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. The project will help restore the site, secure the minerals we need for our national security and strengthen America's supply chains. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

I am pleased to see Perpetua Resources wants to take responsibility and clean up the damage left behind by mining operations in the early 20th Century – even though the company was not involved in any of the previous activity at the site. Perpetua has a plan to reunite salmon and trout with their spawning grounds for the first time in 80 years. They plan to provide permanent access to approximately 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of anadromous fish spawning habitat, and the company has agreed to install a temporary fish passageway that will allow fish to swim past the old mining pit before mining even begins. The SDEIS concludes providing volitional passage would result in major, permanent, regional and beneficial effects for fish. Perpetua Resources is our best chance to rewrite the history of the site and finally fix longstanding environmental issues.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our state needs. It has been in regulatory review for the past six years. During this time, public comments and scientific analysis has helped to improve the plan. But now it is time to move it forward. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan presented by Perpetua Resources in the SDEIS, as expeditiously as possible.

Susan McLendon