

Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Gold Project presents Idaho, particularly rural Idaho, with a huge economic and environmental opportunity. The company has a plan to improve water quality, wetlands and the river and leave the site better than it is today. I am writing to encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible.

Today, arsenic and antimony levels at the site are far beyond what is considered healthy for humans or aquatic life. Metals have been leaching into the ground and surface water around the site for years from mine waste that was left behind from legacy mining operations. The Stibnite Gold Project, as outlined in the preferred alternative, will improve water quality conditions at the site because Perpetua Resources plans to remove old mining materials. Of course, the project will contribute new mine waste. However, the SDEIS concludes Perpetua's design features and today's technology will reduce new impacts to water quality. There are environmental benefits to the Stibnite Gold Project and I believe the right checks and balances are in place to move the project forward.

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.

Peggy Bowers