

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plans for the Stibnite Gold Project. Over the last several years, I've had the opportunity to hear a handful of presentations on the project, sit down with members of Perpetua Resources and observe how the company has lived out its mission as it has grown. It is with this knowledge that I encourage you to move the project forward.

Salmon have been cut off from miles of high-mountain spawning grounds and rearing habitats since roughly 1938, when the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River was diverted around the Yellow Pine Pit. We need to do better. Fortunately, Perpetua Resources plans to design and install a fish passageway to help connect fish to their native spawning grounds before mining even begins. While skeptics have questioned whether or not the passageway would work, the SDEIS concludes it will provide passage for all four special status fish species at Stibnite. And, once mining at the Yellow Pine Pit is complete, Perpetua would begin full restoration of the river, creating a long-term solution for salmon to spawn upstream. This is just one of the benefits of the preferred alternative.

After reading my letter, I hope you can see why you should permit the Stibnite Gold Project. This project is a good thing for Idaho, helps decrease America's dependence on foreign countries for a critical mineral and cleans up the environment. The company also continued to refine its plan in response to the permitting process, so it has the smallest footprint possible and results in improved water quality conditions on site.

Regis Belback