

I am writing to express my views on Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the project is compelling for many reasons and I am committed to seeing come to fruition. This is the best opportunity to clean up legacy tailings and waste, reconnect fish to miles of spawning grounds that they have been blocked from for 80 years and restore a river. Without Perpetua Resources, the site will likely never get the environmental attention it deserves.

When regulators are reviewing a project, they are considering all the worst-case scenarios. Which is why I was pleased when I saw the SDEIS concluded that the risk of a spill large enough to have a negative impact on fish would be low. Additionally, regulators said they believe with Perpetua's planned spill response resources and trained responders that a spill from a vehicle traveling up to site would be promptly contained and cleaned up. These things are important and signal a larger cultural of safety and commitment to the environment. These are just two small examples of why I hope you will permit the Stibnite Gold Project using the preferred alternative.

The SDEIS reduces the size of the project footprint, improves water quality, eliminates the need for long-term water treatment and makes sure water temperature on site does not exceed baseline conditions – all while providing our nation with access to a mineral we desperately need. The permitting process has been thorough and complete. Now, I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan.

Rodney Baker