

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.

In reviewing the SDEIS, it is clear to me Perpetua has been thoughtful on how to minimize its impacts during mining. For example, the company is going to construct a passageway to reconnect fish to upstream habitat before mining even begins. Fish have not been able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit for more than 80 years. The analysis in the document says this will help limit the impacts of habitat reduction for fish. We need the minerals from the Stibnite Gold Project and I believe the company has demonstrated they can mine safely and protect the environment.

Let Idahoans see the benefits of the Stibnite Gold Project. The USFS has reviewing the project for the last six years. During this time, the company has reduced the project size by 13% in the SDEIS, decreased maximum water temperature to keep it at or below baseline conditions and eliminated the need for long-term water treatment. The review process is working and now we need regulators to advance the project as expeditiously as possible.

Billy Payne