

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.

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 culture 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 Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project Idaho needs. It has been in regulatory review for the past six years. During this time, public comments and scientific analyses have helped to improve the plan, but now it is time to move it forward. I strongly 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.

Charles Wertalik