

America desperately needs antimony. This mineral is used in munitions, large-capacity storage batteries, fire retardants and more. Currently, we are entirely dependent on foreign countries to provide this mineral, which is why I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. This project can stop our import reliance on antimony.

The SDEIS concludes there will be net benefits associated with the Stibnite Gold Project. Some of those benefits will occur before mining even starts. For example, Perpetua Resources will construct a fishway that allows fish to travel to upstream habitat that they have been unable to reach for decades. Because of this the SDEIS said the greatest benefit to Chinook salmon and steelhead passage will occur during construction, when the fishway is built. Perpetua eventually plans to restore the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, so access to upstream waters is permanently restored for fish. I want to see the conditions at Stibnite improve. I know Perpetua Resources can make it happen.

Perpetua Resources wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. After reviewing the project for six years, I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the project forward with the improvements laid out in the SDEIS.

Gary Betts