

I am writing to express my full support of Perpetua Resources and the Stibnite Gold Project. Perpetua has shown they are committed to Idaho and want to take care of the environment. The company designed its project to clean up legacy waste, reconnect salmon to their native spawning grounds and fix one of the watershed's largest source of sedimentation. The Stibnite Gold Project would leave water quality, wetlands and the river better than they are today. I hope you move forward and permit this project as quickly as possible.

Today, steelhead and Chinook salmon cannot access spawning grounds because they are blocked by an abandoned mining pit. Perpetua will address this issue before mining even begins – reconnecting fish for the first time in more than 80 years. The company will build a fish passageway in the short term. Based on professional judgement and similar or longer tunnels, the SDEIS concludes Perpetua's tunnel would provide passage for all four special status fish species at site. It is important to note Perpetua will eventually restore full access to 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of fish spawning habitat above the Yellow Pine pit. If we do not allow Perpetua to move forward with their plans, it is highly unlikely anyone else will provide the funds needed to reconnect fish to this currently lost habitat.

I appreciate your time and thoughtfulness in the review process. The U.S. Forest Service has not cut any corners over the past 6 years analyzing the project and I've appreciated the opportunities to provide feedback. For the reasons I stated in my letter above, please permit the Stibnite Gold Project.

Stephen Earl