

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the National Environmental Policy Act. I am a PhD scientist who resides in nearby McCall. I am a four-season outdoor enthusiast and I consider myself a conservationist who is very concerned about the impacts of human behaviors on the environment, from the past to the present, and from the local to the remote. From this perspective, I have closely followed the plans of Perpetua Resources. Based on what I have discovered, I fully support their project primarily for the following reasons among others.

I strongly support the goal of the Biden administration to achieve a clean energy grid by 2035. This goal cannot be met without antimony, a rare and crucial element needed to make the solar panels and batteries required to achieve a clean grid. This project will remedy the fact that we do not currently have a domestic source of antimony. Who better to supply this precious resource than ourselves?

As a local resident, I hugely value the restoration efforts this project will exert on a site severely degraded by the mining practices of the past. Currently, fish cannot migrate upstream to their natural spawning grounds and heavy metals leach into ground and surface water. I strongly believe that the Stibnite Gold Project in the end will vastly improve the environmental conditions at this site without federal dollars. As evidence that the permitting process is working as intended, Perpetua, driven by DEIS comments, revised their plan to both further deepen the local streams and include taller and wider strips of vegetation along their sides with the aim of keeping the fish, and by extension, ourselves healthier.

Finally, this project is estimated to inject \$1 billion into the local economy. Yes, of course, with such a windfall there will be winners, losers, and unintended consequences. But for the vast majority of people over the broad reach of time, investment and economic expansion have (though too often unequally) raised standards of living.

For the above reasons and many more, I urge you to move forward with the 2021 Modified Mine Plan for this project. More than twelve years of scientific analysis and six years of regulatory review have shown that the permitting process is working and it is time to move this project forward to a final record of decision. Thank you,

Don Sheriff