

As a resident of McCall, ID, I am responding to a request for comments on the Stibnite mining project's environmental impact statement. Having followed the review process for several years, now, from the original filing through its revisions, I unequivocally support the project.

Perpetua Resources has consistently been responsive to concerns over the project's impact on the natural environment and community. Moreover, at the close of the project, despite significant mining operations, the natural environment will be in a better state than it is now. Were there other players who realistically would be likely to undertake significant reclamation efforts in the area, I might be less sanguine. There are not. Further, with new federal regulations that require mine operators to post bonds in amounts that will fully fund reclamation efforts by the NFS (or others) should the company fail, unlike in the past, adequate safeguards are in place to ensure that reclamation will take place.

Historically, mining has played an important role in the economic health of Valley County. The Valley County Comprehensive Plan includes goals and objectives to ensure mining remains a viable element in Valley County's economy. Hence, a new mine is consistent with the County's own vision of its future. On the other hand, the County recognizes the need to maintain the role of the timber industry, tourism, outdoor recreation, and agriculture in the local economy as well. The current mine plan is consistent with this vision; it brings the economic benefits of mining while minimizing its impacts on other important economic drivers.

Perpetua Resources has performed an extraordinary amount of background impact work and worked cooperatively with the community throughout. For example, its studies on the most appropriate route for mine traffic were well conceived and the ultimate selection was made with extensive consultation with the NFS and public. The selection appears to minimize the potential for spills and stream degradation. It has fully internalized concerns about potential impacts on fish and the riparian environment. It acknowledges that there will be both positive and negative short term impacts on stream and lake habitats and riparian vegetation, but has design a planned such that, once fully reclaimed, there will be significant permanent benefits to the environment for Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout within the vicinity of the mine.

Finally, after having read numerous documents, I am satisfied that Perpetua's TSF design provides a foundation that will maximize the overall strength of the embankment against failure. The use of a buttress which provides significant resisting mass will enhance tailings embankment deformation, thereby increasing stability in both normal static conditions and in event of an earthquake.

I reiterate my support for the project and believe that ultimately, both the natural environment and economy of Valley County will benefit from this project.

Gina Schatteman