

I have been closely following Perpetua Resources' plans for several years. The Stibnite Gold Project presents an opportunity to restore an abandoned mine site and provide our nation with the critical minerals we need. I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on their SDEIS.

Salmon have been cut off from miles of high-mountain spawning grounds and rearing habitats since roughly 1938, when the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River was diverted around the Yellow Pine Pit. We need to do better. Fortunately, Perpetua Resources plans to design and install a fish passageway to help connect fish to their native spawning grounds before mining even begins. While skeptics have questioned whether or not the passageway would work, the SDEIS concludes it will provide passage for all four special status fish species at Stibnite. And, once mining at the Yellow Pine Pit is complete, Perpetua would begin full restoration of the river, creating a long-term solution for salmon to spawn upstream. This is just one of the benefits of the preferred alternative.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Perpetua Resources' project as outlined in the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. At this point, the Stibnite Gold Project has been studied by regulators for the last six year. That is enough. Now, it is time to let Perpetua get to work.

Gerald Anton