

I have reviewed Perpetua Resources' plans, met with leaders of their company in the past, and talked with folks on their development team, some of who are former Forest Service minerals personnel. I fully support the the Stibnite Gold Project. Through re-mining that will use modern mining, the proposed operation will leave the area better than they found it, while providing our nation with the minerals we need.

I have been appalled by the foot dragging, the inclusion of nonsensical project proposals, and what I perceive to be the USFS efforts to scuttle this project at any cost. I should point out that some of the adverse impacts of the existing situation are a direct result of your unseemly scrambles to "spend-it or lose-it" during end of fiscal year spending binges on the part of the Forest, Region and Washington offices. Much of those types of problems could be avoided if your own agency's abandoned mines program got out of the way and let the professionals deal with the matter.

The foot-dragging, the less than intelligent quick fixes, the nonsensical proposals to amend the project in the original DEIS and the unwillingness to talk directly with the project proponent during the DEIS preparation were detailed in a Senate hearing. These action are an embarrassment to anyone who has spent as much time in the federal government's mining programs as I have. I retired from the federal government as the Mining Law Administration Program leader after 42 years of service and I regard this project as prime example of how "not to do it." It could be said that it a prime argument for moving mine permitting to another agency.

Below are my comments on the plan to be included in the project record.

By providing passage for fish, Perpetua will have a beneficial impact on fish populations within the vicinity of the mine. Right now, the abandoned Yellow Pine Pit currently blocks fish access to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Fish will continue to be blocked from high quality habitat unless you permit the Perpetua Resources project to move forward with its plan.

USFS should allow the mine at Stibnite and provide domestic source for antimony, reduce import dependence on hostile nations, help clean up a legacy site on which you have wasted funds (to no avail), improve fish habitat and passage, provide jobs to Idahoans and demonstrate that re-mining is a viable solution to correcting damages to resources. Even if some of your management and NGO allies gag at that prospect.

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. After analyzing the project for the past six years, I call on you to get off you butts, move forward, and permit the mine using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan so Perpetua Resources can put Americans back to work.

Rick Deery