

I have reviewed Perpetua Resources' plans and met with members of their team to better understand the Stibnite Gold Project. I am impressed with the company's commitment to use modern mining to leave the area better than they found it, while providing our nation with the minerals we need. Below are my comments on the plan to be included in the project record.

The 2021 Modified Mine Plan is in line with Idaho values and our way of life. Idahoans have long understood that using the land and protecting the land can go hand-in-hand. Perpetua Resources' project blends improving public lands with building a robust business and it is an approach I encourage. From repairing a legacy mine site to developing roads and power infrastructure, the \$1 billion investment the company would make in Idaho will benefit the entire state. For example, ground and surface water quality are currently a concern around the site. In some places on the site, arsenic and antimony levels in the water are currently 700 times higher than drinking water standards. After reading comments submitted following the DEIS, the company identified even more ways to improve water quality and reduce water temperature. If we let Perpetua Resources remove legacy tailings it will provide long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water. These are benefits we cannot pass up.

The SDEIS reduces the size of the project footprint, improves water quality, eliminates the need for long-term water treatment and makes sure water temperature on site does not exceed baseline conditions – all while providing our nation with access to a mineral we desperately need. The permitting process has been thorough and complete. Now, I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan.

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