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Comments: I commend Perpetua for implementing many of my prior suggestions, as they were also suggested by others. However, in the most recent EIS draft, I missed any reference to two of my more singular comments. My first comment informed Perpetua and the Forest Service that having an electrical substation in view of the road in Dead Horse Canyon was antithetical to the Johnson Creek Scenic Corridor. I hope I am correct that the current plan places the substation on a bench away from the road. My second comment informed Perpetua and the Forest Service that the new section of road from Black Lake to the top of Meadow Creek Ridge cuts through an area designated as highly erosive in Perpetua's geologic survey. In one sense, it is no skin off my back if this road is troublesome to maintain. However, if this road becomes a stumbling block, then it may become an excuse to use a secondary route, which would impact me and the public at large.

I have one new comment. In one of Perpetua's Zoom meetings, the tailings were discussed. I was happy to see Meadow Creek would be reclaimed as it goes over the tailings. However, I was sad to see little reclamation on the rest of the tailing's surface. In other words, there would be little effort to hide the tailing's scar on the landscape. In years past, the exposed Stibnite tailings did not bother me because the tailings were not huge. However, this mine is verging on gigantic and I feel the tailings would be an insult to most people's sensibilities. This may seem melodramatic, until you experience such an insult. This happened to me the first time I visited a poultry farm with a quarter million chickens. I could not eat eggs for a year because I associated the smell with a horrific insult to my sensibilities. Hence, I believe an effort to reforest the tailing would go a long way to keeping the public on the side of mining and the Forest Service.

I have one final impression. Years ago, an outside observer noted that Midas Gold did not have experience in mining ore. Even with the name change and the re-organization, I could say the same thing about Perpetua. I have witnessed mining operations for decades and I have seen how they go through reincarnations. I am concerned that the good intentions of Perpetua will someday be shoved aside as impractical (as they may well be) when the final operator takes over the actual mining. I hope the Forest Service will be a good steward by keeping our hopes realistic and our plans in force.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Steven T. Harshfield