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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

My company is a Colorado based tunnel design firm and as part of our work, we were introduced to Perpetua Resources and assisted them with their Stibnite Gold Project. As part of our services, we regularly performed design and construction services on various water, wastewater, stormwater, and transportation tunnels throughout the U.S., including an in-depth third party design review of the Stibnite Gold Project's East Fork South Fork Salmon River (EFSFSR) diversion tunnel and fishway. Based on our review, we believe the tunnel design to be prudent and appropriately designed to withstand the expected ground loading, seismic loads, and working conditions while considering worker safety during construction and operations. In our experience, the tunnel will be capable of a service life of 50 plus years, much longer than the 15 or so years required for the mining project. Based on our understanding of the project, we feel that a tunnel is the most effective, environmentally sustainable, and reliable alternative to divert the EFSFSR around the planned Yellow Pine pit while providing early and effective fish passage.

In addition, after working with Perpetua, I believe the proposed mine plan is not only a responsible and prudent approach to mining and reclamation, but believe the extracted antimony can be mined in a responsible manner that will allow for this much needed element to be utilized for national security reasons rather than importing the material from a foreign country that have little focus on responsible mining and reclamation practices and are subject to outside political influences.

On a personal note, I have visited the area of the site recreationally as well as professionally, and will again. Based on my experiences with Perpetua and talking to local residents of the Yellow Pine area, I believe Perpetua is serious about their intention of providing a net benefit to the community and environment. I look forward to seeing their project realized and fish passage restored, and encourage the USFS to advance to the Final EIS and a positive Record of Decision soon.