

I am writing to express my full support of Perpetua Resources and the Stibnite Gold Project. Perpetua has shown they are committed to Idaho and want to take care of the environment. The company designed its project to clean up legacy waste, reconnect salmon to their native spawning grounds and fix one of the watershed's largest source of sedimentation. The Stibnite Gold Project would water quality, wetlands and the river better than they are today. I hope you move forward and permit this project as quickly as possible.

Private industry is needed to restore the Stibnite Gold Project site. Unfortunately, the federal government attempted to restore the area but problems in the area still persist today. Perpetua wants to restore the site through mining. The company has spent the last 12 years studying the environment of the site, gathering input from the community and carefully analyzing many options to mine and perform restoration work. After the DEIS, the company identified even more improvements. I was so pleased with what I saw in the SDEIS with the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. There is no longer a need for long-term water treatment, water quality conditions are improved, the project footprint is even smaller and there is no longer a need for the Fiddle Development Rock Storage Facility. The Stibnite Gold Project is clearly well thought out, practical and environmentally sound. I encourage you to adopt the Burnt Log Road option outlined in the SDEIS. Continuing to use existing roads, especially as the project ramps up, is just too risky given the avalanche history and proximately to waterways. It would put construction and mine traffic adjacent to miles of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, increasing the chance of spills. Burnt Log is clearly a safer option for all of us.

The Stibnite Gold Project has been under federal review for the last six years. That has given regulators and the public plenty of time to review the company's plan. I know this project will transform an area in need of environmental repair and secure a domestic supply of antimony. It is for all of these reasons that I encourage you to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward.

Steve Hartman