

The Stibnite Gold Project presents a big opportunity for Idaho. Without this project, the conditions at Stibnite will likely never get better. Fish will continue to be blocked from their spawning grounds by an abandoned mine pit and legacy tailings will continue to degrade water quality. The project also presents an opportunity for America. It could help secure a domestic source of antimony, so we can stop our import reliance on this critical mineral. This is an important project and I appreciate the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of Perpetua Resources' public permitting process.

Our lives depend on mining. We need minerals for our cell phones, computers, cars and pretty much everything in between. While mining is crucial, we cannot sacrifice our environment in the process. Mining must be done responsibly. When the USFS identified Perpetua's improved plan as it preferred alternative, it signaled they believe the company can limit community and environmental impacts and mine. Reviewing the SDEIS, I was pleased to see the preferred alternative would improve water quality conditions in Meadow Creek and the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River by removing the repurposing legacy tailings. The conditions on site are not going to fix themselves. Perpetua Resources is our best bet to improve water quality.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our state needs. It has been in regulatory review for the past six years. During this time, public comments and scientific analysis has helped to improve the plan. But now it is time to move it forward. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan presented by Perpetua Resources in the SDEIS, as expeditiously as possible.

James Bailey