

# PROPOSED PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

## NEPA WORKS

April 7, 2021

The Stibnite Gold Project (Project) Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) was submitted to the United States Forest Service (USFS) in September 2016. The USFS is the lead federal agency directing environmental review of the Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

After submitting the plan for the Stibnite Gold Project, Perpetua Resources (then Midas Gold) continued to review numerous data sources to identify how the Project could be refined to reduce overall disturbance footprint and reduce potential environmental impacts. This data included predictive models that are used to estimate potential impacts to air quality, surface water and groundwater quality, surface water and groundwater quantity, and surface water temperatures. This data also included stakeholder, public and agency feedback heard during the scoping process of NEPA and throughout the first three years of regulatory review under NEPA. Through these processes of continued project analysis and evaluation of alternatives, the team at Perpetua arrived at an improved Project plan and thus submitted a Modified Proposed Action (ModPRO) in 2019.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the USFS, was released in August of 2020 and included 5 alternatives. Of these alternatives, the original plan (PRO) and the modified plan were included as Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, respectively. The environmental effects analysis included in the DEIS indicated that Alternative 2 reduced potential environmental impacts in comparison to Alternative 1. However, it also indicated additional areas for overall project improvement. There were also many comments on the DEIS submitted by both the public and the reviewing federal, state and local agencies. These comments identified other areas where the Project could potentially be improved.

After reviewing the DEIS and public and agency comments, Perpetua revisited each component of the Project to assess where additional enhancements could be achieved. Our responses to these comments were submitted to the U.S. Forest Service for their consideration as opportunities to refine the project. These proposed refinements further improve environmental outcomes of the project without fundamentally changing the project scope and include positive changes to water temperature, water quality and a reduction of the overall footprint of our project.

### PROJECT REFINEMENTS PROPOSED by PERPETUA:

- **10% reduction** in the total volume of mined material (44 million tons).
- **7% reduction** in disturbance from open pits (37 acres).
- **168-acre disturbance reduction** through the elimination of the proposed Fiddle Development Rock Storage Facility (DRSF).
- **70% reduction in the size of the Hangar Flats pit**, the area and depth of the HF pit is reduced, and the open pit is completely backfilled (i.e., no HF pit lake).
- **Maximum water temperature reduced** via measures including planting of wider and taller riparian vegetation, and the addition of a widened, deepened portion of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River channel in the Yellow Pine (YP) pit backfill (Stibnite Lake).
- **Elimination of the Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs)** due to less required dewatering.
- **Improve chemistry of tailings** to be stored in the Tailings Storage Facility through adjustments to the ore processing circuit.
- **Replace lost habitat** through the addition of a small lake to replace similar fishery habitat lost with removal of the existing YP pit lake.



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U.S. Forest Service staff will review these proposed improvements alongside public comments and determine which, if any, proposed refinements will be brought forward in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed refinements are entirely encompassed within the well-analyzed scope of the Project and include includes known opportunities to improve water quality and temperature.

This is NEPA at work. For more than four years, the Project has been refined through a process of continual review and input from regulatory agencies, the public and other project stakeholders. The DEIS and the subsequent public comment period helped illuminate areas for even more improvements and that valuable input will now be used by the U.S. Forest Service and cooperating agencies to inform the final project design and approval. The result will be a project that is a better version of the original plan (PRO) with reduced disturbances, better water quality, and features that are more sustainable in the long-term. Most importantly, the improvements advance the company's original vision of restoration through mining.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Permitting Update Webinar](#)
- Additional Webinars and Events: [www.PerpetuaResources.com/connect/virtual-events](http://www.PerpetuaResources.com/connect/virtual-events)
- Connect with Perpetua Resources: [community@perpetua.us](mailto:community@perpetua.us)