

# BULLETIN

## Northwest Mining Association

APRIL/MAY 2005

### Biological Opinion in Rock Creek Remanded to USFWS

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On March 29, 2005, Chief Judge Donald W. Molloy of the US District Court, District of Montana, Missoula Division, handed down a decision to remand the Biological Opinion (BO) in the Rock Creek Project Record of Decision to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Judge Molloy ordered USFWS to further review and consider the BO in response to an action brought by Earthjustice (on behalf of the Rock Creek Alliance), Cabinet Resource Group, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, Idaho Council of Trout Unlimited, Pacific Rivers Council, EARTHWORKS/Mineral Policy Center, and Alliance for the Wild Rockies. A press release grossly overstating the decision was made March 30 by Earthjustice and the Rock Creek Alliance which claimed that the Molloy decision rejected the Rock Creek Mine.

In a clarification dated April 19, **Revett Minerals Inc.**, the owner and operator of the Rock Creek Mine in northwest Montana, noted the inaccuracies of the rush to victory shown by the plaintiffs. The Record of Decision for Rock Creek was not overturned; rather the court has found that further consideration and review of data is needed by the USFWS. Confirming that this reading is correct, the U.S. Forest Service has already notified Revett that it does not intend to withdraw the Record of Decision.

The Earthjustice/Rock Alliance press release stated, "The court ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service overlooked serious concerns that the proposed Rock Creek Mine would drive grizzly bears and bull trout in the region extinct." The decision did not say that; rather the court asked USFWS to consider newer studies regarding the grizzly bear population and the possible effects of the development on the population. In giving summary judgment to the plaintiffs, the court is simply asking that the agency review and consider this data. It should be noted that USFWS has been working for the past four months to update its grizzly bear data.

Judge Molloy, in addressing the bull trout issue, agreed that the USFWS "...underlying conclusions may be justifiable... However; FWS has failed its procedural obligation here to consider cumulative effects." The plaintiffs argued that USFWS had acknowledged that the bull trout populations and sub-populations across a larger region were and could be significantly impacted in other previous BO's, but did not take these other BO's into account when considering the Record of Decision. The summary judgment in favor of the plaintiffs tells the agency to adhere to procedures when considering ESA data.

The court did grant summary judgment in favor of USFWS and Revett with respect to mitigation. The court said lands needed for habitat mitigation as outlined in a Record of Decision do not have to be pre-acquired as a condition precedent for an affirmative Record of Decision.

Revett Minerals is continuing to advance the preliminary work required to commence driving the proposed adit at Rock Creek pending deliberations by the permitting agencies. Finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Department of Water Quality will provide the administrative framework for implementation of the mitigation plan. Revett is in the process of negotiating with landowners to acquire required mitigation lands. In addition, preliminary studies on water quality issues and road enhancements are underway.

Before this decision, Rock Creek was scheduled for a revised technical and economic feasibility study in early 2007. Current production projections are for a 10,000 ton per day, underground mine with conventional mineral flotation, with estimated annual production of 7 million ounces of silver and 59 million pounds of copper during early years of production. The mine would employ approximately 330 people and provide over \$22 million per year in taxes, goods, and services purchases.



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## Laura Skaer Testifies at House Energy & Mineral Resource Subcommittee hearing

While in DC with the Women's Mining Coalition last week, **Laura** and NWMA's 1st VP **Ann Carpenter** were among those who testified before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on *Improving the Competitiveness of America's Mining Industry*. Below is a copy of Laura's testimony. For a complete copy of all written testimonies visit <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/archives/109/emr/042805.htm>.

My name is Laura Skaer and I am the Executive Director of the Northwest Mining Association, a 1,000 member, 110 year-old industry trade association based in Spokane, Washington.

Our members are actively involved in exploration and mining operations on public land in every western state. Our broad-based membership includes many small miners, exploration geologists, junior and large mining companies. More than 90% of our members are small businesses or work for small businesses.

Our members have extensive first-hand experience with the laws and regulations affecting mining, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the permitting process, and issues involving security of tenure for mineral exploration and development.

We commend the chairman for calling this hearing and appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Since 1993, the U.S. reliance on imported sources of minerals has increased seven-fold. In the early 1990's, 20% of world exploration dollars were spent in the United States. Today, only 8% of world exploration dollars are spent here. Why do companies find Canada, Mexico, South America, Australia and even Africa more desirable places to invest in mining than the United States, despite the problems we read about in some of those places. This decrease is not because the U.S. lacks economically valuable mineral deposits.

Unfortunately, the sad truth is that the United States is considered a high risk, unpredictable country by the investment markets that supply the capital to fund exploration and development. The NEPA process, the U.S. permitting system, restricted access to mineral deposits and the inability to secure land tenure, both before and after a discovery, have made mineral development and production difficult, time consuming, costly and in some cases, impossible.

The time delays and unpredictability involved in permitting a mine in the U.S. Tie up capital too long, resulting in rates of return that do not cover the cost of capital.

It is imperative that the NEPA process be reviewed and reformed to remove inappropriate barriers to domestic mineral activity without sacrificing environmental protection. Environmental regulations are not the problem!

Our members believe that from project inception through closure, potential environmental impacts should be comprehensively identified, and appropriately evaluated, managed and mitigated. That was NEPA's original goal and we continue to support that goal today.

However, NEPA is no longer about the environment. It is no longer the planning tool it was designed to be. It has become **the tool** used by obstructionist groups who oppose responsible and lawful mineral development on federal public lands; a project-killing, job-killing, community-killing tool.

My written testimony details four examples in four states involving both the USFS and the BLM. Four projects that would provide between 145 and 745 high paying family wage jobs each, millions of dollars in local and state tax revenues, and hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact in areas with double digit unemployment. Each project has been in permitting between 11 and 17 years, each project has been appealed and litigated, some more than once, 2 of the 4 projects have had difficulty attracting capital, and only one, Lisbon Valley in southern Utah, is finally in construction.

Improving the competitiveness of America's mining industry begins with reforming the NEPA process and streamlining the permitting system. An expedited and predictable permitting process not only benefits the mining industry, it creates substantial economic benefits for local and state governments and area merchants. With a faster permitting schedule, the jobs needed for project construction and operation become a reality sooner and on a fairly reliable schedule.

Additionally, a predictable permitting schedule facilitates planning between community leaders, elected officials, and the project proponent to address fiscal and socioeconomic impacts associated with a new or expanded workforce.

My written testimony contains several recommendations for improving the NEPA process. I will mention three. First, Congress should reaffirm the procedural intent of NEPA by providing that NEPA cannot be used to condition, delay or deny a project that complies with all substantive environmental laws & regulations.

Second, implement the recommendations of the 1999 National Academy of Sciences *Hardrock Mining on Federal Land* report. Congress mandated it and paid for it. It is time for Interior to do something with it. And third, limit frivolous appeals and lawsuits by requiring project opponents to pay attorney fees if they loose a legal challenge to an agency decision that has been through the NEPA process.

Reforming NEPA and streamlining the permitting process is only part of the solution. America's mining industry also needs security of land tenure, both for exploration and production, both pre- and post discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. Without security of land tenure, investors and mining companies will continue to seek opportunities in countries that provide a more secure investment environment.

In order for the U.S. mining industry to compete for long term investments of hundreds of millions of dollars, investors must see an efficient and predictable permitting system, a predictable legal system, and a government that operates by the rule of law. Investors must know that our government will uphold property rights as their investments prove successful. They will not risk instant losses to "surprise" decisions by activist judges and unelected political appointees.

We stand ready, willing and able to work with you to ensure that mining has a long, stable future in the United States. Thank you.

## McMorris to Chair NEPA Task Force

House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA) has announced the creation of a task force meant to “improve” NEPA. The task force will be chaired by freshman Representative Cathy McMorris (R-WA), and will hold field hearings and study the 35 year old law, which has hampered agencies from properly managing public lands.

NEPA has become the never-ending story with no sideboards. It has created a perpetual litigation machine that delays projects and has resulted in the United States permitting process ranking 25 out of 28 mineral-producing countries. Chairman Pombo indicated that this NEPA task force was purely a fact-finding mission and that there were no plans to produce “a pot of legislation” at the end of the process. There are 11 Republicans on the task force, including Energy and Minerals Subcommittee Chair Jim Gibbons (R-NV), Chris Cannon (R-UT), and Greg Walden (R-OR). Ranking member Nick Rahall (D-WV) will control 9 slots on the task force, but has yet to appoint the representatives. The first hearing was held in Spokane, Washington on Saturday, April 23.

NWMA members have significant experience with the project delays and escalating costs associated with NEPA compliance and are fully supportive of the goals of this task force. NWMA hopes that this task force will lead to legislation that will improve the NEPA process and restore its original procedural only intent.

NWMA's Public Lands and Environmental Committees will be preparing written testimony to submit to the task force. If you would like to participate in this effort, or if you have a NEPA horror story to tell, please contact either Public Lands Committee Chair Ted Wilton at 775/778-9715, twilton@frontiernet.net, Environmental Committee Chair Joe Baird at 208/388-0110, jhbaird@bhwlaw.net, or NWMA Executive Director Laura Skaer.

This task force is an opportunity to provide core message points on NEPA and provide specific mining-related stories illustrating NEPA's problems and failures. It will also provide NWMA with an opportunity to provide recommendations for improvement.

## USA to Mint 24-Karat Gold Bullion Coin

In response to the growing global sales of 24-karat gold bullion investment coins, and the dominance of foreign-minted coins in this investment realm, the United States Mint has decided to begin the process of developing the production schedule of 24-karat (99.99% fineness) gold bullion investment coins. The potential global market for such coins is estimated at \$2.4 billion annually. Currently, foreign-minted 24-karat gold bullion coins account for almost 1/3 of all gold bullion coin sales in the USA on an annual basis. Globally, 60% of all bullion sales are in the form of 24-karat gold bullion coins.

At the moment, and until actual minting scheduled for 2006, the United States Mint has no 24-karat gold bullion coin. The current bullion program instead focuses on the American Eagle series of coins which are 22-karat (91.67% fineness) gold bullion investment coins. This program will continue for gold, silver, and platinum coins alongside the increasingly world standard 24-karat gold



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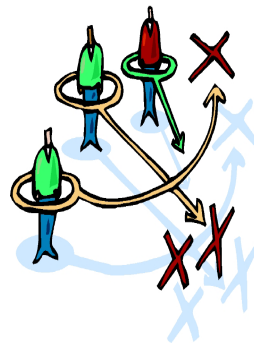
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bullion coins desired by investors. The American Eagle 22-karat gold coins are the worlds top selling bullion investment coin, but have steadily been losing ground to the higher fineness foreign product.

Plans call for a successful test strike followed by considerations of designs, specifications, quantities, and denominations. Possible themes for the coins will be presented by teleconference in late April at a meeting of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee at the United States Mint in Washington. Following the successful planning and development of the actual coin line, the program will start an investor-grade, uncirculated 24-karat gold bullion coin series, with a 24-karat numismatic collector proof coin entering the market at a later time.



## Members on the move...

Jack Gerard is leaving **National Mining Association** to become the President & CEO of the American Chemistry Council. Hal Quinn will take over as transition President & CEO beginning May 1. A search committee has been formed to fill the position. NWMA has enjoyed working with Jack and wish him the best of luck.

**Pincock, Allen & Holt** has been acquired by Runge Limited of Brisbane, Australia. Runge is a consulting and software firm which has provided mine operation, mine business planning consulting services, software, and training services to the mining industry for more than 28 years. Runge currently has clients in 20 countries served by offices in Brisbane, Perth, Johannesburg, Calgary, Kuala Lumpur, Santiago, and now Denver. PAH will be operated as a division of Runge with current President Raja Upadhyay remaining as president.

**Ted Wilton** left **Queenstake Resources Ltd.** to form a new company (with two colleagues) to explore for uranium in the western United States. Ted will be Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Neutron Energy.

Coming Soon ...  
Exploring the Modern Minerals Renaissance  
Preliminary Program and Registration Details



## Members in the News...

### Canyon Raises \$3.8 Million

**Canyon Resources Corporation** has raised \$3,823,417 through the sale of units priced at \$0.71 each, comprised of 5.3 million shares of registered common stock and 2.6 warrants. Warrants can be exercised at \$1.03 per share of common stock from September 22, 2005

through March 14, 2008.

Newly appointed President James Hesketh says the money will be used for general corporate purposes, which will include funding engineering and drilling activities at the Hycroft Mine during the purchase option period. Canyon has optioned the Hycroft Mine from **Vista Gold Corporation** and anticipates a positive decision to purchase and restart the mine later in 2005. Funds will also be used to advance engineering analysis of other properties such as Reward in Nevada.

### Coeur Buys Silver Down Under

**Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation** has agreed to acquire all of the silver production and reserves at the Endeavor Mine in Australia. The Endeavor Mine, in operation since 1983, is owned and operated by CBH Resources Ltd.

The mine, principally a lead and zinc producer, is 448 miles northwest of Sydney in New South Wales. Annual production is forecast at about 1.3 million ounces of silver from mineral reserves of 24 million ounces. Measured and indicated resources add 8 million ounces, and the inferred category tacks on an additional 500,000 ounces.

CDE Australia (a wholly owned subsidiary of Coeur d'Alene Mines) will pay CBH \$15.4 million at closing. When CDE determines that a newly installed paste backfill plant is successful (a decision expected in the third quarter), CDE will pay an additional \$23.1 million. CDE will also pay operating cost contributions of \$1 per payable ounce of silver plus a further increment when the price of silver exceeds \$5.23 per ounce (the 20 year average price). The amount of the further increment is 50% of the difference between the realized price and \$5.23. As new proven and probable silver reserves are discovered, CDE will compensate CBH in the amount of \$0.25 per ounce. The maximum entitlement to Coeur from the current contained resource is 17.7 million payable ounces. Coeur d'Alene Mines calculates that under these terms, it is paying \$3.26 per payable ounce for a total effective cost of \$4.26 per payable ounce of silver. The total value of the deal is \$38.5 million.

Coeur d'Alene is expecting to immediately increase its total silver production by 1.3 million ounces on an annual basis, an amount forecast for a mine life of ten years. The effect of the transaction will be to increase annual operating cash flow by around \$6.2 million.

### Resource Increases at Idaho Cobalt

**Formation Capital Corporation** has reported that **Mine Development Associates** has completed an updated resource estimate for the Idaho Cobalt Project near Salmon, Idaho. The primary cobalt project is in the bankable feasibility and final permitting stage. Mine Development Associates were able to generate an updated resource model based on information from 163 drill holes totaling nearly 105,000 feet. The project has two deposits: on the Ram Deposit, drill hole spacing was 50 feet, on the Sunshine Deposit, drill hole spacing was 100 feet.

The updated resource estimate shows an increase of 67% in the measured and indicated resource on the Ram Deposit compared to the Mine Development Associates pre-feasibility study dated May, 2001. The current measured resource is slightly over 1 million tons of 0.66% cobalt, 0.60% copper and 0.0153 opt gold. The updated indicated resource now stands at 473,000 tons grading 0.73% cobalt, 0.64% copper and 0.0162 opt gold.

With current and projected cobalt prices, Mine Development Associates has lowered the cut-off grade to 0.2% from the 0.3% used in the 2001 study, and has estimated a total measured, indicated, and inferred resource of 3,688,347 tons grading 0.59% cobalt, 0.68% copper, and 0.015 opt gold, which yields a total contained metal count of 43.5 million pounds of cobalt, 50 million pounds of copper and 55,000 ounces of gold.

Cobalt is used primarily as an alloy and, in compound form, as a pigment for inks, glass, and ceramics. It occurs as a hard, lustrous, steel-gray, ductile metallic element. Cobalt is projected to average between \$20 and \$25 per pound for 2005.

### Big Springs Gets Another Look

**Gateway Gold Corp.** has completed a preliminary review of a data package purchased from AngloGold North America Inc. in October, 2004 on the Big Springs property in northeastern Nevada. The data package is the result of work performed by Independence Mining Company which operated the Big Springs Mines from 1987-1993.

The data package has proven to be very extensive and has identified at least 16 separate gold zones, many of which have been drilled enough to allow resource calculations. Most are open down dip and on strike and are scheduled for drilling in 2005. Independence also found numerous high-grade isolated drill intercepts in lightly drilled outlying areas.

During the period of active mining, the Big Springs Mines produced 510,000 ounces of gold from 7 different pits. The data package includes drill logs and assay results for 2,088 holes. Sixteen hundred of them are in the Big Springs main area with the remainder from outlying areas. This represents 753,000 feet of drilling and approximately 150,600 gold assays. It is estimated that it would require \$24 million to duplicate the effort.

The data package was purchased for an initial payment of 60,000 common shares of Gateway Gold. Should Big Springs enter commercial production, Gateway will issue an additional 120,000 common shares to AngloGold North America, Inc.

## Members In The News... (Continued)

### Glamis Increases Production 84% in First Quarter

**Glamis Gold Ltd.** has set a new internal quarterly production record of 93,700 ounces of gold. This is an increase of 84% over the same quarter in 2004. Total cash costs were \$187 per ounce versus \$205, a decrease of 8.8%, for the same period.

The dramatic increase is the result of the first full quarter of production at the El Sauzal Mine in Mexico and continued progress on Marigold in Nevada. El Sauzal contributed 43,500 ounces with Marigold growing from 17,200 ounces in 2004 to 28,200 ounces in 2005. Production at San Martin decreased slightly from 28,900 ounces in 2004 to 22,000 ounces in 2005.

Glamis is scheduled to produce 400,000 ounces of gold in 2005 at an estimated cash cost of \$185 per ounce. The schedule for 2006 calls for more than 600,000 ounces of gold. The company also noted that the Marlin project in Guatemala is expected to enter production in the fourth quarter.

NWMA congratulates Glamis on this important achievement.

### Golden Star Agrees to Acquire License in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa

**Golden Star Resources Ltd.** has announced an agreement with the Societe d'Etat pour le Developpement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire Mines (SO.DE.MI.) (the national mining company) to acquire the Afema (aka Aboiso) property in southeast Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire is in west Africa, bounded from west to east by Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana.

The license covers 775 square miles characterized by Birimian rocks that are the extension of the Sewi Belt meta-volcanics and the Kumasi Basin meta-sedimentary rocks that extend into Côte d'Ivoire from Ghana. In Ghana, the belt-basin contact hosts the multi-million ounce Chirano and Bibiani Gold Deposits.

Small scale mining at Afema in the 1990's came from small, shallow pits along a 7.5 mile strike length and produced an estimated 125,000 ounces of gold. No modern exploration has occurred on the property.

Golden Star will pay \$100,000 to SO.DE.MI. for the rights to conduct a 6 month technical due diligence. Golden Star will have the right to purchase 100% of the interest that SO.DE.MI. has in Afema for \$1.5 million. That represents 90% of the Afema license

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with the government of Côte d'Ivoire holding a 10% interest and an indexed royalty (at today's prices it amounts to 2.5%).

At least \$500,000 is planned for exploration in the first 6 months, and, depending on exploration success, may be increased to \$3.5 million over the next 3 ½ years.

### Drill Results in for El Morro

**Metallica Resources Inc.** has received initial results from this seasons drilling on the El Morro Project by venture partner Noranda Chile Ltd. Noranda can earn a 70% interest in the north central Chile project with a combination of \$10 million in exploration work (accomplished in 2002) and cash payments of \$10 million to Metallica by September, 2005. Noranda completed 32,590 feet of diamond core drilling in 23, and has released data from the first 13 drill holes totaling 19,160 feet.

Average drill hole depth was 1,476 feet with all but four of the 13 ending in copper or gold values greater than the average resource grade calculated by Noranda in 2002 at 1.61% copper and 0.016 opt gold. At that time, Noranda used a 0.4% copper grade to produce an inferred resource of 465 million tons grading 0.61% copper and 0.016 opt gold for about 6.2 billion tons of copper and 7.4 million ounces of gold.

The latest drilling results showed some notable results including: DDHF-46 with 702 feet of 0.86% copper and 0.024 opt gold in the secondary zone and 525 feet of 0.65% copper and 0.028 opt gold in the downhole primary zone. DDHF-48 on the eastern edge of the resource hit 243 feet of 1.24% copper and 0.012 opt gold in the secondary enriched zone and 774 feet 0.56% copper and 0.023 opt gold in the secondary zone. DDHF-51, like DDHF-46, near the center of the resource, encountered 190 feet of 1.84% copper and 0.029 opt gold followed by 1,004 feet of 0.67% copper and 0.026 opt gold in the primary zone. DDHF-52 towards the north edge of the resource did even better with 276 feet of 2.07% copper and 0.025 opt gold and 1,200 feet grading 0.68% copper and 0.021 opt gold in the underlying zone.

The seasons drilling program was designed to better define the higher grade copper enrichment zone and to improve understanding of the higher grade copper porphyry. Drill hole spacing was increased to approximately 328 feet and doubled the drill hole density in the upper 1,475 feet of the central portion of the deposit.

Metallica has recalculated the 2002 resource estimate by Noranda (without the addition of the latest data) using a copper equivalent cutoff price of \$0.90 copper and \$375 gold. With a 0.4% copper cutoff, the La Fortuna resource is estimated at 641 million tons of 0.53% copper and 0.015 opt gold for 7.5 billion pounds of copper and 9.5 million ounces of gold.

### Minera Andes Starts Drilling Cerro Mojon

**Minera Andes Inc.** has started a nine core hole drilling program on Cerro Mojon in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina. The program will test several identified areas of mineralization with nearly 7,500 feet of drilling.

## Members In The News... (Continued)

The 2004 exploration program of mapping, sampling and a gradient array induced polarization survey identified approximately 15 mineralized vein structures, several that outcrop for over 1,600 feet. The geophysical survey (1.2 miles by 1.55 miles for 1.86 square miles) covered 60% of the exposed mineral structures. Several subsurface anomalies coincident with surface gold and silver mineralization found at the surface are high priority targets for the current drilling program.

Surface samples taken in the 2004 season showed that of the 340 samples, 217 had detectable gold with 117 assaying more than 0.0032 opt gold and 20 greater than 0.032 opt gold, the best containing 0.13 opt gold. Anomalous silver was found in 289 samples, including 109 with greater than 0.32 opt silver, 22 returning a grade greater 3.2 opt silver, and one sample containing 27 opt silver.

### New Jersey Mining Ships Gold Concentrate to Barrick Goldstrike

**New Jersey Mining Company** has shipped its first load of gold concentrate from its Idaho mines to Barrick Goldstrike in Carlin, Nevada. Twenty three tons of gold laden pyrite flotation concentrate was sent via two truckloads to the Nevada facility, starting to fill the 180 ton purchase order placed by Barrick. Gravity concentrates containing larger, visible gold particles are also produced in the New Jersey Mining mill and these will be sold at a later date.

Most of the production came from the underground Golden Chest mine near Murray. Mining operations will start on the Katie Dora vein by the end of May with the driving of a raise and intermediate drifts with ore being processed as mined. Part of the concentrate came from the Coleman pit of the New Jersey mine near Kellogg. New Jersey Mining estimates that production will average one truckload (or about twelve tons) of concentrate per month when production starts.

### South Lone Mountain Claim Block Increased

Bravo Venture Group Inc. has staked an additional 134 claims at South Lone Mountain in the south Battle Mountain-Eureka (Cortez) Trend in Nevada. Originally 105 claims, the block was increased by 1,294 claims as reported in mid-February. The recent addition brings the total amount to 1,533 lode claims or about 45 square miles. **Placer Dome US Inc.** has the right to earn into the project under an agreement signed in October, 2004, and has funded and directed all staking since the original claims were located.

The claim block lies over an area covered by Quaternary valley fill sediments. Interest was sparked by the discovery that cuttings from a nearby oil well, drilled in 1989, showed altered gold bearing Roberts Mountain Formation and tuff and gravels immediately overlying bedrock. Data acquisition and interpretation is continuing to define drill targets and ultimate project boundaries.

# EXPERIENCED MINING COUNSEL

Preston Gates is a full-service international law firm with offices up and down the North American Pacific Coast, throughout Greater China, and in Washington, DC. We provide an integrated approach to environmental, business, and policy matters for mining clients, domestically and abroad.

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## Members In The News... (Cont'd.)

### Mineralization at Mountain View Project

**Vista Gold Corp.** has reported final drill results from the 2004 drilling program on its Mountain View Gold Project forty miles from Winnemucca. The property was acquired from Newmont Capital Ltd. in October, 2002. It is a part of the Deephole Mining District that had gold production between 1938 and 1951. Exploration work was renewed in 1984.

The drilling program was five holes, all reverse circulation, and totaled 4,070 feet. Two were abandoned prior to hitting bedrock due to water infiltration in the gravels. Three intercepted gold mineralization. Hole MV04-194 hit 110 feet grading 0.039 opt gold at 245 feet and 160 feet grading 0.024 opt gold starting at 530 feet. MV04-195 found 340 feet grading 0.045 opt gold with a higher grade intercept of 15 feet reporting 0.421 opt gold from 845 feet to 860 feet. MV04-196 returned 65 feet of 0.031 opt gold from 665-730 feet. MV04-194 was vertical; the others were angle holes from west to east.

## NWMA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

### CORPORATE:

**Columbia Analytical Services,  
Inc.**  
**Lyntek Services, Inc.**



### INDIVIDUAL:

**Jeff Christian**  
**Ted Edye**  
**Edward Gates**  
**Trent Hahn**  
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## In Memoriam

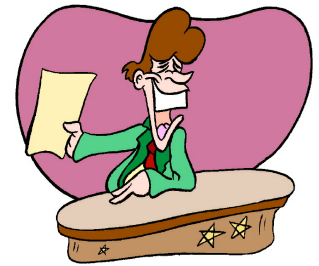
**Dr. John Richard Hoskins** ("Jack") passed away January 22, 2005 in Spokane, WA at the age of 85. Jack was a student at the University of Idaho, but went to work for a contractor on Wake Island to make some money for school. The war started, the Japanese captured the island and Jack, who spent the next four years as a POW. He returned to school and received a degree in mining in 1947.

His career included positions with U.S. Gypsum, ASARCO, teaching at the University of Alaska/Fairbanks, post-graduate work at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, a Ph.D. from the University of Utah in 1962. After a period with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, he joined the faculty at the University of Idaho in 1967. Twenty-one years later, he retired as the Head of the Department of Metallurgical and Mining Engineering.

Jack served on the educational committees of the SME and AIME. The SME recognized him as a Distinguished Member in 1984 and awarded him the Legion of Honor and the Mineral Industry Education Award in 1989. He was a trustee of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum in Leadville, CO. Jack was a Trustee of Northwest Mining Association during the years 1978-1980, 1987, and 1994 and led the Association's K-12 education efforts. In recognition of his contributions to the industry and the Association, Northwest Mining Association made him a Life Member in 1988. He is survived by his wife Artys and three children.

**Dr. Michael B. Mehrtens** died in Denver on October 3, 2004 at the age of 69. Mike was a dedicated explorationist who made several significant discoveries, three of which became producing mines. He was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England and received a degree in geology from Hull University and a Ph.D. in geochemistry from the Royal School of Mines in London. Mike was a founder of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum and the International Exploration Geochemists. Northwest Mining Association was the beneficiary of his expertise in 1991 when he served as a Trustee. He is survived by his wife Liz, three children, and four grandchildren.

# NWMA's 2005 EXHIBITORS as of 4/30/05



**ACZ Laboratories Inc.** - Analytical lab services, # 62  
**Alaska Marine Lines** - Transportation services, # 59  
**Apollo Gold** - Gold mining company, # 95  
**Asterimages / Spectral International, Inc.** -  
Remote sensing / field spectrometers, # 69  
**Atlas Copco Exploration Products** - Exploration  
products, # 79

**Barrick Goldstrike Mine** - Gold mining & custom  
milling services, # 91  
**Boart Longyear Products USA** - Drilling services &  
drilling products, # 53

**Casualty & Surety, Inc.** - Insurance, # 49  
**CDA Metals** - Steel, aluminum, wear plate and ornamental  
iron, # 74  
**Coeur Products LLC** - Drill hole survey instruments, # 72  
**Colorado Mining Association** - Association, #51  
**Columbia Analytical Services** - Analytical laboratory, # 32  
**Comanco Environmental Corp.** - Liner applications, # 63  
**Connors Drilling LLC** - Drilling services, # 76  
**Cossey Noyes Group** - Financial consulting, # 82  
**Crystals Unlimited** - Gems & jewelry, # 45  
**Cummins Northwest, Inc.** - Diesel engines, #22

**DSI Ground Support** - Ground Support, #29  
**Dyno Nobel, Inc.** - Explosives, # 90

**Eljay Oil, Inc.** - Lubricants, # 21  
**Energy Laboratories, Inc.** - Full service analytical lab, # 48  
**Envirocon, Inc.** - Environmental services/equipment, # 61  
**Enviroscientists, Inc.** - Environmental consultant, # 70

**Gems & Jewelry** - Gems & jewelry, # 89  
**Geological Society of Nevada** - Publications, # 42  
**Geotemps, Inc.** - Staffing services, #'s 54 & 55  
**Godwin Pumps of America, Inc.** - Dri-prime pumps, #27  
**Gold Summit Corporation** - Exploration, # 67  
**Golder Associates, Inc.** - Engineering services, # 52

**Hagby USA, Inc.** - Core drilling equipment, #'s 37,37 & 39  
**Harrington Industrial Plastics** - Pipe, valves, tanks, hose,  
tubing & instrumentation, # 81  
**Hecla Mining Company** - Mining company, # 60

**ICMJ's Prospecting & Mining Journal** - Weekly publication,  
magazine, # 28  
**Idaho General Mines** - Mining company, # 94

**JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc.** - Environmental  
consultants, # 24  
**JCH Insurance, Inc.** - Environmental insurance, #86

**Kettle Drilling, Inc.** - Drilling contractor, # 50  
**Kinross Gold Corporation** - Mining company, #23

**Lang Exploratory Drilling / Boart Longyear Contracting  
Svc.** - Drilling services, #'s 96 & 97  
**Lyntek Services, Inc.** - Engineering consultants, # 26

**Mackay School of Earth Sciences & Engineering** -  
Educational / University, # 40

**MARSH USA Risk & Insurance  
Services, Inc.** - Risk consulting &  
environmental services, # 8

**Maxim Technologies, Inc.** -  
Environmental consulting, # 88

**Medi-Rub Corp.** - Foot & body massagers, # 1  
**Mill Man Steel, Inc.** - Pipe & pipe products, # 58

**Miners News** - Bimonthly newspaper, # 73

**Minex, Inc.** - Drilling Products, # 85

**Mining Record, The** - Newspapers, directories, maps, #'s 56  
& 57

**Montana Tech** - Education research/University, # 80

**National Mining Association** - Association, # 105

**Nevada Book & Mineral Company** - Earth science pubs,  
unique gemstone jewelry, # 44

**Nevada Pacific Gold (US) Inc.** - Mining company, # 78

**New West Resources Group** - Mining company, # 84

**NIOSH - Spokane Research Lab** - Government, #'s 92, 93 &  
94

**Niton, LLC** - Spectrum analyzer, # 46

**Northwest Linings & Geotextiles Products, Inc.** -  
Geosynthetics, # 100

**Northwest Machine Works, Inc.** - Machined parts, # 77

**Pacific Power Products** - Engines, # 14

**Prosonic Corp.** - Drilling, # 103

**Queenstake Resources USA Inc.** - Mining Company, # 25

**Rain For Rent** - Pumps, pipe, tanks, filtration rental, # 101

**Rocklabs, Ltd.** - Sample preparation equipment sales, # 102

**Sierra Environmental Monitoring, Inc.** - Analytical service, #  
35

**Silver Jewelry by JC** - Silver jewelry & coins, # 71

**Society of Economic Geologists (SEG)** - Mining organization,  
# 65

**Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Engineering** - Mining  
organization, # 66

**Solitario Resources Corporation** - Mining company, # 98

**SRK Consulting (US), Inc.** - Consulting engineers & scientists,  
# 87

**State of Alaska - DCED** - State-economic development  
program, # 20

**State of Nevada - NV Bureau of Mines & Geology** - Geology  
& mining in Nevada information & publications, # 41

**Ten Cate Nicolon - Miratac Division** - Geosynthetics,  
geotubes # 5

**The Northern Miner** - Publishers, weekly newspaper, # 30

**Tire Distribution Systems, Inc.** - Tires, # 75

**US Army Corps of Engineers** - Government, # 47

**US Bureau of Indian Affairs** - Government, #'s 10, 11 & 12

**US Bureau of Land Management** - Government, # 31

**US Geological Survey** - Government, # 83

**USDA Forest Service** - Government, #'s 15 & 16

**WDC Exploration & Wells** - Drilling contractor, #64

**Women's Mining Coalition** - Grassroots education, # 104

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

*Chair: Joe Baird, Baird-Hanson-Williams LLP*

### States Sue Over EPA's Final Mercury Rule

Nine states have sued EPA over its final mercury rule, launching what is expected to be a lengthy court battle over the Bush Administration's plan to limit toxic power plant emissions through a market-friendly trading program. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on March 30, and challenges the first of two segments of the mercury rule. At issue is EPA's decision to delist electric utilities from a Clean Air Act provision that would have required the installation of stringent pollution controls for mercury at almost all of the 1,300 coal- and oil-fired power plants. The states said they will file another suit when EPA publishes its trading program plans. Joining New Jersey Attorney General Peter Harvey (D) were New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte (R), and Democratic AGs from California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York and Vermont. Other AGs are contemplating joining the lawsuit. The plaintiffs are expected to request an immediate stay to prevent implementation of the rule.

EPA officials believe they are on solid legal ground and that the trading plan will "virtually eliminate" health risks associated solely with mercury pollution from U.S. power plants. More extensive reductions are not possible because of the inadequacy of existing pollution control technologies and the need to maintain use of the country's most abundant domestic energy resource, coal. EPA is calling on states to set up a cap-and-trade program that would limit mercury emission allowances from current levels of 48 tons down to 38 tons in 2010 and 15 tons in 2018.

### Udall Reintroduces Abandoned Hardrock Mine Cleanup Bill

Congressman Mark Udall (D-CO) has reintroduced legislation to address the cleanup of abandoned and inactive hardrock mines across the west. This is his third attempt to introduce this legislation. The two previous attempts have failed to receive hearings in the House Resources Committee. This year, Congressman Udall has broken the legislation into two bills, (1) the Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Funding Act which would attach a sliding scale fee to mineral producers with gross revenues of more than \$500,000 annually. The fee would apply to production from both patented and unpatented land.

The second bill, the Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Facilitation Act, would provide limited Good Samaritan protection under the Clean Water Act to "qualifying individuals and entities." Unlike previous versions of Udall's legislation, this version does allow mining companies to participate in the cleanup and receive Good Samaritan protection.

## PUBLIC LANDS

*Chair: Ted Wilton, Neutron Energy*

### Coalition Appeals Forest Service Planning Regulations

A coalition of 15 groups has sued the Bush Administration over recent revisions to the Forest Service planning rule that governs 192 million acres of national forests. The lawsuit, the second lawsuit challenging the revisions to be filed in as many months, was filed March 21. Both lawsuits were filed by the Western Environmental Law Center in U.S. District Court in San Francisco and assigned to Judge Phyllis Hamilton. The latest suit says the Forest Service violated federal law because it failed to conduct environmental studies of the impact of the new rule, and did not consult with other agencies on how the rule would impact species in National Forests. It also claims the rule eliminates environmental protections and limits public input in forest management decisions. Most of the 15 plaintiff groups also challenged the 2000 Clinton Administration revisions. The Clinton rule was suspended by the Bush Administration in early 2001 and never implemented.

"[The plaintiffs] want the mission of the Forest Service changed," said Chris West, Vice President of the American Forest Resource Council. "If you're into obstruction of management activities and you want to turn National Forests into National Parks, of course you're going to challenge." The goal of the Bush Administration's rule is to accelerate the process for foresters to develop, revise and implement the plans. The rule directs forest managers to manage forest plans more broadly and relieves officials of the requirement to manage areas for the protection of particular plants or wildlife and places social and economic considerations on par with ecological sustainability. The Bush rule also eliminates the requirement that forest managers prepare an EIS with each forest plan. Agency officials say the rule simply defers studies until managers consider specific projects that might arise.

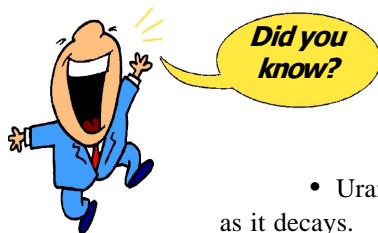
### Phelps Dodge Receives DOI Approval for Safford Land Exchange

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) has affirmed the BLM's June 29, 2004 Record of Decision supporting a land exchange with Phelps Dodge. This action allows the development of the Safford Copper Mine to continue to move forward. The exchange will transfer valuable, environmentally sensitive land owned by Phelps Dodge to the public in exchange for land of equal value located next to the company's property near Safford, AZ. The proposed project includes development of the Dos Pobres and San Juan copper ore bodies about 8 miles north of Safford in southeastern Arizona.

The company believes the project could be in operation in late 2007 or early 2008. Once it opens, it will be the first new U.S.

### MINING LAW... (Continued)

copper mine in more than 30 years. The NEPA process started in 1994 as a BLM land exchange and the initial Plan of Operations was filed in May 1996, nine years ago. This is another great example of why NEPA must be reformed.



*Did you know...*

- Uranium heats the earth's core as it decays.
- Uranium melts at 2,070 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Uranium was discovered in 1789 by German chemist Martin Klaproth.
- Uranium was used in the 1800's to color glass and ceramics.
- Canada is the world's top producer of uranium at 10,467 tons in 2003 worth \$460 million at today's prices.
- Arco, Idaho becomes the world's first nuclear-powered town in 1954.
- Nuclear power is the second largest producer of electricity in the United States contributing approximately 20%.
- Uranium fuels nearly all the 441 nuclear reactors in the world, accounting for 16% of global electricity production.

*Uranium Information Centre, International Atomic Energy Agency, U.S. Department of Energy*

### Mineral Information Institute Baby Gains 890 Pounds in 2004

The Mineral Information Institute has calculated what the average American baby born in 2004 will need from mining in his or her lifetime: nearly 3.6 million pounds of minerals and metals to sustain their standard of living during an average life span of 77.3 years.

In 2004, nearly 7 billion tons of minerals and energy were produced to supply the needs of 293.7 million Americans. That averages out to 46,414 pounds of minerals used by each American last year for an increase of 890 pounds.

Statistics are derived from the U.S. Geological Survey and the Energy Information Institute which provide the amounts of various minerals and energy fuels produced and consumed. Additional research and analysis by the National Mining Association generates information about annual per capita mineral usage.

More information is available from the Mineral Information Institute at [www.mii.org](http://www.mii.org).

### ARIZONA

#### Carlota On The Block

Cambior Inc. has announced that it will divest itself of the Carlota Project in the Miami-Globe area of Arizona. The estimated probable reserves are pegged at 91.1 million tons of 0.39% copper for 355,000 tons of contained copper. Metallurgical testing suggests the ore can be processed as run-of-mine ore on pads and through a SX-EW plant.

Outside engineering studies have indicated an average annual copper cathode production of 68 million pounds with an average recovery rate of 86%. The estimated mine operating costs are \$0.54 per pound of copper. Mine life is projected at 10 years with the stated resource.

Cambior estimates an expenditure of \$90-\$100 million for capital and pre-production expenditures with a construction time of 18 months. Carlota is fully permitted for construction and mining. Aside from any deal required by Cambior, the property is subject for royalties to former property holders, which amounts to a cash cost of \$0.04 per pound of copper recovered.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to fund development of Cambior's existing gold properties and to participate in new gold properties.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Exploration Continues at French Gulch Mine

Bullion River Gold Corp. has completed 18 underground drill holes in its resource definition program at the French Gulch mine near Redding, California. The first 16 holes were designed to test the extension of high-grade gold mineralization of the Lucky 7 vein. These holes successfully extended mineralization 200 feet below previously mined levels.

Assays for the first fifteen holes included 1.89 opt gold over 13 feet within 30 feet averaging 0.84 opt gold; 1.95 opt gold over 6.9 feet; 2.18 opt gold over 2.2 feet hosted within 24 feet of 0.27 opt; 7.06 opt over 0.7 feet within 17 feet.

The remaining two holes are the first to test the Washington vein 400 feet north of the Lucky 7 vein. They intersected the vein as projected, and one hole contained visible gold. In addition, they crossed an additional undeveloped vein between the Washington and Lucky 7.

Bullion River is scheduling a district wide exploration assessment to look at the geologic environment of the area. The historic Niagara Mine is 4,000 feet from the Washington and developed a high-grade ore shoot for 800 feet down-dip. Further exploration on this vein and trend, as well as on a historic drift 550 feet below mined levels, showed visible gold in quartz veins. A surface core drilling program is scheduled for the Niagara area.

## STATE REPORTS... (Continued)

### COLORADO

#### Cash Mine Near Boulder Advances

Consolidated Global Minerals Ltd. has completed 450 feet of a planned 500 foot crosscut at the Cash Mine near Boulder, Colorado. The adit was stopped at the intersection of the Freiberg Vein on the third level of the mine. Once collaring is completed, a mine refuge will be excavated. Drifting on the Freiberg Vein will continue for approximately 50 feet until the Level Three workings are reached. Once reached, conversion to rail haul will be completed and trial stopping will begin.

Historical sampling on the Freiberg reportedly averaged 0.89 opt gold and 6.12 opt silver over a strike length of 600 feet on the Level Three workings. The historical average is from 145 samples, but complete verification has not been achieved. Consolidated Global anticipates verification once the portal is accessed. Three channel samples taken from the adit-Freiberg intersection returned 1 foot of 2.662 opt gold and 36.89 opt silver, 2 feet of 0.698 opt gold and 6.4 opt silver, and 0.375 opt gold and 2.66 opt silver.

The Cash Mine has an operating permit for production on 106 claims which contain 18 past producing mines over 480 acres. The 50 ton per day mill is reconditioned and permitted, and is scheduled for expansion to 200 tons per day in 2005.

#### Quincy Gold Acquires Uranium Properties in New Mexico and Colorado

Quincy Gold Corp. has signed a definitive option agreement with NZ Uranium LLC which allows Quincy to earn up to a 65% interest in three separate uranium properties: Hosta Butte and McKinley in New Mexico and Hansen (Tallahassee Creek) in Colorado. The combined historical resource will bring 21.7 million pounds of  $U_3O_8$  to the credit of Quincy if all options are fully exercised.

Uranium Resources Inc. in 1992 and Stoller Corp. (1996) separately identified 14 million and 13 million pounds (respectively) at Hosta Butte. The resource is amenable to in situ leaching. Kilborn Engineering identified 27.7 million pounds of  $U_3O_8$  at Hansen in 1980. McKinley is 14,080 acres considered highly prospective for uranium development.

Quincy will issue 3,000,000 common shares to NZ Uranium for the options. Expenditures of \$4,150,000 over four years (\$400,000 is a firm commitment) and the issuance of an additional 1,050,000 common shares per property are required for the options to be exercised. The original 65% interest may be increased to 80% in any or all of the properties by funding a bankable feasibility study for any or all of the properties. At that time, Quincy would also issue an additional 250,000 common shares per property.

### NEVADA

#### Keegan Resources Acquires Regent Project

Keegan Resources Inc. has agreed to option the Regent Gold Silver Project in Mineral County, Nevada from Jerry and Fabiola Baughman. Under the terms of the agreement, Keegan will complete \$3 million of work on the property and make cash payments of \$270,000 with 500,000 shares of stock over 6 years. Keegan will own 100% of the property subject to a NSR of 2.5%. Sixty percent of the NSR may be purchased by Keegan for \$3 million.

Regent is on the eastern margin of the Walker Lane Metallogenic Belt. The property is in a large magnetic low caused by extensive hydrothermal magnetite destruction in hosting Tertiary felsic volcanic rocks. Previous exploration of the project by **Newmont Mining Company** and **Kennecott Minerals** focused on lower-grade, open-pit, bulk-mineable resources. The 560 drill holes from these efforts were largely shallow, vertical, reverse circulation holes that, although confined to a limited area, did define a large area of contiguous low grade gold/silver mineralization. Keegan intends to drill angled and partially oriented core holes to delineate veins of sufficient strike, width, and thickness to be mined underground. Five drill targets have been identified; two within the mineralized area identified by Kennecott, the other three are within the magnetic low.

#### Klondex Releases Drill Results from Fire Creek

Klondex Mines Ltd. has announced the results from a nine drill hole program at the Fire Creek project in northern Nevada. The Phase 3 program totaled 10,873 feet with 2,940 feet of reverse circulation pre-collar drilling and 7,933 of NQ core drilling.

Seven of the nine holes returned significant intercepts. FC 05-02 yielded 0.615 opt of gold over 25 feet including 2.55 opt gold over 5 feet. The same drill hole gave 0.19 opt gold over 30 feet with 0.775 opt gold over 5 feet. FC 05-07 intercepted 0.19 opt gold over 25 feet with 0.61 opt gold over 5 feet. FC 05-8L intercepted 0.12 opt gold over 45 feet with 0.23 opt gold over 10 feet.

These Phase 3 drill holes were targeted to test the updip and/or downdip continuity of gold intercepts found in previous drilling. Klondex has determined that the intercepts in this phase are generally of lower grade but longer widths than those found in Phase 1 and 2 equivalents along the respective drill sections.

Information gathered by the Phase 3 drilling has provided enough additional data to develop a geologic model to interpret vein orientation and identification of favorable lithologies. The model indicates that two principal vein systems (Main and West) appear to dip steeply towards each other in a configuration that resembles graben structures typical of the North Nevada Rift. It appears that at Fire Creek, the more receptive gold bearing rocks occur in brittle basalts and dykes rather than the underlying tuffs. Phase 4 drilling is slated for late May.

Help us keep our database current.  
Address, Phone, E-mail Change?? Please let us  
know. Contact Mike at [mheywood@nwma.org](mailto:mheywood@nwma.org).

## STATE REPORTS... (Continued)

### NEVADA...(Continued)

#### Nevada Tops Fraser Institute's Mineral Policy Index

For the fifth straight year, Nevada received the top mineral policy score in the Fraser Institute's eighth Annual Survey of Mining Companies. While Nevada certainly deserves its ranking, NWMA is puzzled by the low score given to Alaska and Colorado. Apparently, The Fraser Institute is not talking to companies doing business in those two states. NWMA also wonders who The Fraser Institute is talking to when they rank New Mexico ahead of Alaska and Colorado.

Clearly, Alaska deserves a ranking similar to Nevada in terms of its policy potential. Governor Murkowski had done great things to improve the exploration climate in Alaska. The Fraser Institute should take a closer look at what is really happening in Alaska – Donlan Creek, Pebble, Pogo, MAN, Fort Knox, and Kensington. Major mining companies are spending millions of dollars investing in Alaska. In addition, substantial grassroots exploration is taking place. Doesn't sound like a jurisdiction with a poor policy potential to us. Perhaps it's time for The Fraser Institute to talk to companies who are actually doing business in Alaska.

The entire Fraser report is available in pdf format at [www.fraserinstitute.ca](http://www.fraserinstitute.ca).

#### Nevada Remains Nation's Top Gold Producer

Nevada mines produced 6.942 million ounces of gold in 2004, according to company reports compiled by the Nevada Division of Minerals. While the production level is down approximately 5% from 2003, Nevada remains the world's third largest gold producer after South Africa and Australia.

The calculated value of the 2004 gold production is about \$2.84 billion, up from about \$2.66 billion in 2003. This is based on an increase in the average gold price in 2004 to \$10 per ounce, up from \$363 per ounce in 2003.

Nevada's silver production in 2004 was 10.299 million ounces, up slightly from 10.246 million ounces in 2003. Based on an average silver price in 2004 of \$6.77 per ounce, the calculated value of Nevada's silver production was \$69 million, up from \$50 million in 2003.

According to **Alan Coyner**, the Administrator of the Division of Minerals, "The increase in the value of gold production indicates Nevada's mining companies continue to make a substantial contribution to the state's economy. Exploration activity picked up significantly in 2004, which should lead to additional discoveries and production in the future."

Industrial mineral production increased in 2004. The total value of Nevada's industrial minerals, which includes aggregates, barite, clays, diatomite, dolomite, gypsum, lime and limestone, lithium compounds, magnesium compounds, opals, perlite, salt, and silica sand was about \$360 million, up from about \$300 million in 2003.

The total value of all mined commodities in 2004 in Nevada was about \$3.3 billion, up from about \$3.0 billion 2003.

For more information see: <http://minerals.state.nv.us/>

#### Quadra Arranges Working Capital Facility From Aussie Banker Macquarie

Quadra Mining Ltd., through its wholly-owned subsidiary Robinson Nevada Mining Company (RNMC), has arranged a revolving working capital facility with Macquarie Bank Ltd., a banker based in Sydney. Funds are to provide liquidity for the Robinson Mine near Ely, Nevada, between production and final sale of the metal concentrate.

RNMC previously disclosed that a shortage of rail cars caused a buildup of concentrate inventory to 34,000 tons at the end of 2004. This amount is 14,000 tons higher than would be expected in the normal course of events. Availability of cars improved, and RNMC began the use of unit trains in March, leading the company to anticipate that the excess inventory will be moved to market by the end of the year.

The credit facility will provide up to \$30 million until August 1, 2005, with \$20 million after that until March 31, 2006. This provides RNMC with the leverage for the inventory pipeline which would normally tie up significant working capital. An initial drawdown of \$12 million was made on March 30, 2005. Each drawdown can be no greater than 90% of the NSR based on the hedged value of concentrate shipments under current sales contracts.

Macquarie has also agreed to provide an uncommitted hedge line of credit facility. RNMC can hedge up to 25,000 tons of copper and 60,000 ounces of gold with no margin calls.

#### Timberline Resources Acquires Downeyville

Timberline Resources Corporation has entered into a Mineral Lease Agreement to acquire the Downeyville Project in Nye County, Nevada. The property is the fifth in the Walker Lane mineral belt acquired by Timberline. Downeyville consists of 21 claims located ten miles north of Paradise Peak.

Timberline will pay \$10,000 annually, and perform \$50,000 of exploration work annually with a 3% NSR retained by the lessor. The NSR can be reduced to 1% by Timberline spending more than \$150,000 on exploration by October, 2008 and paying an additional \$150,000.

As part of the preliminary exploration, 23 rock chip samples were collected with nine samples returning assays that ranged from strongly anomalous values to ore grade for gold, silver and zinc. Grades ranged from 0.061 opt gold to 0.240 opt gold; 3.81 opt silver to 12.85 opt silver; and 5.89 % zinc to 28% zinc. The claim group is characterized by a strongly oxidized shear controlled and replacement-type mineralization. High zinc grades and elevated gold-silver grades along with pyrrhotite, magnetite, and tremolite-actinolite are reminiscent of a proximal gold skarn system such as Cove-McCoy.

## STATE REPORTS... (Continued)

### NEVADA ...(Continued)

#### Tonkin Springs Reverts to U.S. Gold

BacTech Mining Corporation has announced that it is not able to arrange financing required by the Bureau of Land Management for an additional \$1.1 million in reclamation bonding for the Tonkin Springs Property in Nevada. The 55% interest that was to be earned by BacTech now reverts back to U.S. Gold Corporation, with no further obligation to BacTech.

Earlier metallurgical testing had indicated that an operation plan based on a mining rate of 1,500 tons per day and a recovery rate of 85% would yield an annual production of 30,000 ounces of gold per year.

#### White Knight Resources Stakes Two Properties in Nevada

White Knight Resources Ltd. has staked two properties in Nevada: the Knolls in Humboldt County and the Ian in Eureka County.

Knolls contains 180 unpatented lode claims giving White Knight control of 5.2 square miles of mineral rights. It is centered on an uplifted block of Ordovician Valmy Formation with flanks of Pennsylvanian-Permian Antler Group sediments, the same environment which is the host for gold mineralization at Chimney Creek and Twin Creeks (4 miles to the west). Rock chip samples have indicated the presence of a gold bearing hydrothermal system with strongly anomalous arsenic, antimony, mercury and barium with weakly anomalous gold at the surface. The property is dominated by north-northwest and northeast trending structures.

The Ian property adjoins White Knight's Sno Claims at the Gold Stone open pit which has historic production of 71,000 ounces of gold. Fifty one lode claims cover nearly 2 miles of strike length along a series of northwest trending structures that link the Gold Pick, Gold Ridge, and Gold Stone mines. The southern part of the claim block is lower plate carbonate rocks and upper plate Vinini Formation over lower plate carbonates along the Roberts Mountain Thrust that characterizes the northern part of the block.

### UTAH

#### International Uranium Expands Holdings in Utah

International Uranium Corporation (IUC) has extended its holdings in Garfield County, Utah. It has added the entire Toby M Mine and 17 privately-held unpatented claims, both blocks adjoining the existing Bullfrog Claims. The Tony M Mine is comprised of a state section lease and 17 private claims. IUC was selected in a sealed competitive bid with an initial cash bid of \$1 million with final lease terms and royalty provisions in progress.

The second block of 17 claims was acquired for \$200,000 cash, \$50,000 paid at signing of the letter of intent and \$150,000 payable at the formal signing; 250,000 shares of IUC stock, and certain uranium and vanadium royalties.

Taken together, the properties are referred to as the Henry Mountains Complex and represent one of the largest known uranium deposits on the Colorado Plateau. Uranium resources in the Colorado Plateau are primarily hosted in basal sand units of the Salt Wash member of the upper Jurassic Morrison Formation, the same geologic environment that the Henry Mountains Complex represents.

International Uranium has initiated the permitting process intending to put the mine into production as soon as permits have been obtained. The Henry Mountain Complex is within hauling distance of the White Mesa Mill, also owned by International Uranium.

Inferred reserves at the Tony M Mine stand at 3,549,000 tons grading 0.15% for 10,898,000 pounds of  $U_3O_8$ . Inferred reserves at Bullfrog are 1,938,000 tons grading 0.33% for 12,924,000 of  $U_3O_8$ , for a total reserve of 23,822,000 pounds of  $U_3O_8$ .

#### Sahara Uranium Mine in Utah Optioned

Uranium Power Corp. (formerly Bell Coast Capital) has optioned the Sahara Uranium Mine 14 miles southwest of Green River, Utah. The property is 375 claims on BLM administered land and five state mining leases. UPC will initially option 70% of the mine by issuing 100,000 shares of stock and \$150,000 in cash to Sahara upon signing a definitive letter by April 30. UPC will commit to a minimum work expenditure of \$750,000 in the first two years with an advance royalty payment of \$50,000 due in Year 2. Advance royalties and work expenditures in years 3 and 4 will be indexed to the price of uranium. In years 5-11, advance royalties will be indexed, with no work expenditures. At any time, the percentage can be upped by 10% with the payment of \$1 million, with an additional 5% available for \$2 million.

Mineralization at the Sahara Mine is in the Salt Wash member of the Morrison Formation in the upper Jurassic. Deposits appear to be localized in sandstone filling paleo-stream channels that trend to the northeast. Extension of the known deposit may be possible by following the channels.

Various companies have explored the property since 1959 with several hundred drill holes. Trio Industries sunk a 550 foot decline and mined sporadically until 1977. At that time Energy Fuels Nuclear bought into the property, ramped up drilling and delineated the first 1,800 feet of the Sahara Trend with 450 reverse circulation drill holes, some to 500 feet. Reports by Energy Fuels Nuclear geologists indicated the deposit contained almost 500,000 pounds of  $U_3O_8$  grading 0.23%. Vanadium was estimated to equal the presence of uranium in a 1 to 1 ratio.

The project entered development in 1979 with a new haulage decline constructed, 440 volt electricity brought in, and ventilation improved. By 1980, one truck of ore was shipped to the mill facility near Blanding, Utah when the Three Mile Island nuclear accident occurred. The mine was placed on standby until the early 1990's when Energy Fuels withdrew from the project and

## STATE REPORTS... (Continued)

### UTAH ...(Continued)

reclaimed the property. The data (drill records, maps, assays) was given to the current owners. It is estimated from the dataset that over \$20 million in inflation adjusted dollars was spent on the property by Energy Fuels Nuclear.

### San Rafael Optioned by Glen Hawk

Glen Hawk Minerals Ltd. has reached a deal with Energy Metals Corporation to earn up to a 75% interest in the San Rafael Property in Emery County, Utah. Glen Hawk can earn an initial 51% interest with a cash payment of \$30,000 on signing the formal agreement, and a further \$35,000 when the TSX Venture Exchange approves the agreement. Glen Hawk must also spend \$1.1 million on exploration and issue 1.1 million shares of common stock over five years. The interest will rise to 75% if Glen Hawk funds the property to a bankable feasibility study to be completed within 30 months of the initial earn-in.

San Rafael was explored in the 1960's and 1970's by Atlas, Conoco, Union Carbide and others. Conoco alone drilled 165 holes in two sections, which helped define the northeast trending channel. The channel is parallel to and just east of the Tidwell trend, which played host to several underground uranium mines including Atlas' Snow shaft and the Four Corners Mine.

In 1973, Conoco reported that a historic resource of just over 2 million pounds of uranium existed in the deposit. Average thickness was 6.7 feet grading 0.16% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> using a cut-off of 0.05%. According to the Conoco data, depth to mineralization is from 570 to 1,000 feet with the water table at 500. Petrographic analyses by Energy Metals Corporation on seven core holes are being reviewed to determine the possibility of in situ leaching.

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

### BRAZIL

#### CVRD Revenue Increases 53% Over 2003

Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), the Brazilian giant iron ore producer, reported that 2004 revenues increased to a company record high of \$8.5 billion, an increase of 53% over 2003. The world's largest iron ore and pellet producer reported a net income of \$2.573 billion in 2004, a 66.2% net increase over 2003. CVRD attributed part of the rise to a non-recurring gain from a divestiture of \$404 million and part to an increase of \$236 million in equity income from subsidiaries.

In 2004, CVRD signed contracts for delivery of 750 million tons of iron ore and pellets to 40 clients worldwide. Due to increased demand for general cargo business, CVRD will add 123 locomotives and 600 railcars to help grow the business.

The coming year should show even greater strength for CVRD as contracts were announced in recent months that reflected sharply higher prices. In late February, CVRD and Shanghai Baosteel Group, China's largest steelmaker, reported that they had agreed to a 71.5% increase in the price of iron ore delivered in 2005. Baosteel Group will buy 35.4 million tons at the new price effective April 1.

One week later, a similar set of price increases was announced in a contract with Arcelo, Europe's largest steelmaker. Depending on the product, increases ranged from 71.5% to 86.67% over 2004.

### CHILE

#### Meridian Gold Expands Land Holdings at El Peñón

Meridian Gold Inc. has purchased the Gold Fields Ltd. interest in their joint venture property which adjoins (on the west) the El Peñón Property in the Atacama Desert in northern Chile. The acquisition consolidates full control in the 278 square mile property in the hands of Meridian. Purchase price for the interest was \$7.5 million and includes a 2% royalty on all precious metals production.

Discoveries in the district have revealed over 4.6 million ounces of gold and 110 million ounces of silver. The land in the agreement extends Meridian's control by approximately 30 square miles and includes the high-grade Fortuna Vein discovered in 2004. Fortuna lies about 4 miles west of the processing facilities.

In 2004, El Peñón produced over 310,000 ounces of gold at a cash cost of \$50-\$60 per ounce. Recovery rates for gold are 97% and 93% for silver. Reserves stand at 1.8 million ounces of gold and 34 million ounces of silver and have been replaced each year since production started in 2000.

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[mheywood@nwma.org](mailto:mheywood@nwma.org).

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTS...(Continued)

### INDONESIA

#### Vista Purchases Awak Mas Gold Deposit, Indonesia

Vista Gold Corp. has elected to exercise its option and purchase the Awak Mas Gold Deposit in Sulawesi, Indonesia. The original agreement was entered into in November, 2004 for \$1.5 million. Vista paid the owners \$15,000 per month during the six month due diligence period, a sum which, along with \$150,000 to correct deficiencies in asset standing, will be credited against the \$1.5 million due in early May.

RSG Global Pty. Ltd. (West Perth, Australia) prepared a resource analysis in October, 2004, which stated that the known deposit had a measured and indicated resource of 52,580,000 tons averaging 0.032 opt gold for a contained resource of 1,656,000 ounces of gold. A further 259,000 ounces was identified in the inferred category at the same grade. The cut-off grade used for this analysis was 0.016 opt gold.

Previous operators of the property spent over AUD \$46 million (\$35.6 million) and completed a final feasibility study. Vista intends to expand the gold resource through exploration over the next several years, and to sharpen the economics through engineering studies.

### MEXICO

#### Production Begins at Baroness Tailings in Mexico

Sterling Mining Company's Baroness Tailings Project in Zacatecas, Mexico has attained production status. Construction of 18 concrete processing vats was completed in November, 2004 and the plant was commissioned. Delays in the fall occurred due to weather conditions, design changes, and the scarcity of some materials, notably copper scrap. Processing cycles are predicted to be 13 days, with each vat varying depending on the volume and porosity of tailings.

Tailings are leached in concrete vats (each capable of holding 600 tons) using thiosulfate. Pregnant solution is pumped through banks of concrete copper batteries. Silver precipitates out of solution onto the copper which is then pressure washed to remove the silver and small amounts of gold. The precipitate is dried, fluxed, and melted into dorè bars. Sterling plans the first weekly shipment of dorè bars to local smelters for April.

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### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Placer and Western Areas Commission World's Deepest Single-Drop Shaft in South Africa

**Placer Dome** South Africa and 50-50 joint venture partner Western Areas officially commissioned the South Deep Twinshaft Complex near Westonaria, Gauteng in South Africa. The twinshafts are the world's deepest single-drop shaft at nearly 1.7 miles. The main shaft is over 9,800 feet in depth, with the ventilation shaft plunging to 9,050 feet. South Deep Twinshafts Complex cost more than \$650 million and ten years to construct. Over 7,700 tons of steel were used in the development of the main shaft alone.

The shafts were built to provide access to South Deeps proven and probable reserves of 55.6 million ounces of gold. Mine life is estimated at 60 years. Production in 2005 is forecast at 490,000 ounces with increases to 560,000 ounces in 2006 and 800,000 ounces in 2008. The mine is expected to be cash positive in the second quarter of 2005. Cash costs were \$371 per ounce in 2004 with reductions to \$331 per ounce expected in 2005, and \$297 per ounce in 2006. Over 60% of production is currently mechanized with up to 80% possible at greater depths.



**Did you know?**

*Did you know...*

- Nickel is found in most meteorites and is used as a criteria to distinguish a meteorite from other minerals.
- Nickel-hydride batteries are among the most efficient batteries currently available and are used in electric hybrid cars and fuel cells.
- Nickel steel is used in the production of armor plates and burglar-proof vaults.
- Nickel imparts a greenish tinge to glass and enhances the safety properties of auto glass.
- Nickel, finely divided, is used for hydrogenating vegetable oils.
- Nickel plating provides a protective coating for other metals.
- Ping ISI series irons were the first Ping irons available with a nickel clubhead.

*From Kennecott Minerals Company*

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## MAY 2005

May 6: **NWMA Trustee Meeting** to be held in Reno, Nevada at 8:00 a.m. Members welcome. For information on location of meeting, contact Kathy Wilson at (509) 624-1158. Email: kwilson@nwma.org

May 15-18: **Geological Society of Nevada Symposium - Window to the World**, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno/Sparks, Nevada, Information - [www.gsn2005.org](http://www.gsn2005.org), call 775-355-8388 or email [gnsymp@unr.edu](mailto:gnsymp@unr.edu)

May 15-18: **Symposium 2005 Mines and the Environment** in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, Canada presented by the Universite du Quebec en Abitibi-Temiscamingue and the Canadian Institute of Mining. Contact Chantal Murphy at (CIM) (514) 939-2710 ext. 1309 or email [cmurphy@cim.org](mailto:cmurphy@cim.org).

May 16-20: **Economic Evaluation and Investment Decision Methods**. Location: Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO. Information at [www.mines.edu/outreach/cont\\_ed/econeval.shtml](http://www.mines.edu/outreach/cont_ed/econeval.shtml), [space@mines.edu](mailto:space@mines.edu), (303) 273-3314

## JUNE 2005

June 5-10: **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mining Expo**, Elko Convention Center, Elko Nevada. Information: (800) 248-3556, Registration online at <http://www.elkocva.com/miningexpo.shtml>

June 6-10: **Economic Evaluation and Investment Decision Methods**, offered by the Colorado School of Mines. It will be held in Houston, TX. For more information, contact Melody Francisco in Colorado at (303)273-3493. Email: [mfrancis@mines.edu](mailto:mfrancis@mines.edu) or web: [http://www.mines.edu/Outreach\\_Ed](http://www.mines.edu/Outreach_Ed)

June 27-29: **2005 RETC**, Rapid Excavation & Tunneling Conference & Exhibit, The Westin Seattle Hotel, for more information visit [www.retc.org](http://www.retc.org)

## JULY 2005

June 6-10: **Economic Evaluation and Investment Decision Methods**, offered by the Colorado School of Mines. For more information, contact Melody Francisco (303)273-3493. Email: [mfrancis@mines.edu](mailto:mfrancis@mines.edu) or web: [http://www.mines.edu/Outreach\\_Ed/](http://www.mines.edu/Outreach_Ed/)

## AUGUST 2005

Aug 4-5: **NWMA Trustee Meeting** in Billings, Montana on Friday, August 5. There will be a tour of the Stillwater Mine Complex on Thursday, August 4. Members Welcome. For more information, contact Kathy Wilson (509)624-1158 or email: [kwilson@nwma.org](mailto:kwilson@nwma.org)

## SEPTEMBER 2005

Sept 12-16: **Economic Evaluation and Investment Decision Methods**. Offered by the Colorado School of Mines. For more information, contact Melody Francisco at (303)273-3493, email: [mfrancis@mines.edu](mailto:mfrancis@mines.edu). [http://www.mines.edu/Outreach/Cont\\_Ed](http://www.mines.edu/Outreach/Cont_Ed)

## OCTOBER 2005

Oct 19-21: **Call for Abstracts for RemTech 2005**. Remediation Technologies Symposium at the Fairmont Banff Springs Resort in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Contact Joe Chowaniec at Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA) at (780)429-6363, ext. 223, email: [chowaniec@esaa.org](mailto:chowaniec@esaa.org) or website at <http://www.remtech2004.com>.

Oct 21: **NWMA Trustee Meeting** to be held at the Ramada Inn-Spokane International Airport, 8:30 am. Members Welcome. For more information, contact Kathy Wilson at (509)624-1158 ext. 15. Or email: [kwilson@nwma.org](mailto:kwilson@nwma.org)

Oct 24-26: **Economic Evaluation and Investment Decision Methods**, Colorado School of Mines. Contact Melody Francisco at 303/273-3493, email: [mfrancis@mines.edu](mailto:mfrancis@mines.edu) or check the website at [http://www.mines.edu/Outreach/Cont\\_Ed](http://www.mines.edu/Outreach/Cont_Ed).

Oct. 31 - Nov. 5: **Alaska Miners Association 2005 Convention & Trade Show**, Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage, AK. For more information visit [www.alaskaminers.org](http://www.alaskaminers.org) or call (907) 563-9229.

## NOVEMBER 2005

Nov 14-18: **Mining Industry - An Executive Graduate Certificate Program for Mining Professionals**, University of Nevada-Carlin, NV. Presented by University of Nevada-Reno Mackay School of Earth Sciences & Engineering. Information - Rich Whitney (775) 784-4046 or 1-800-233-8928. OR email: [rwhitney@unr.edu](mailto:rwhitney@unr.edu)

## DECEMBER 2005

Dec 5-9: **Exploring the Modern Minerals Renaissance**, Northwest Mining Association's 111th Annual Meeting, Exposition & Short Courses. Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane, WA, USA. Information: Pat Heywood - [pheywood@nwma.org](mailto:pheywood@nwma.org), or call (509) 624-1158 X 11. NWMA Website: [www.nwma.org](http://www.nwma.org)

Dec. 6: **NWMA Trustee Meeting** to be held at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 2:30 pm. Members Welcome. For information, contact Kathy Wilson at (509)624-1158, or email: [kwilson@nwma.org](mailto:kwilson@nwma.org).

## JANUARY 2006

Jan 23 - 26: **Mineral Exploration Roundup**, BC Yukon Chamber of Mines, Vancouver, BC, Canada Phone: (604) 689-5271 or visit [www.chamberofmines.bc.ca](http://www.chamberofmines.bc.ca)

## FEBRUARY 2006

Feb. 7-9: **108th National Western Mining Conference & Exhibition**, Colorado Mining Association, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver, Denver, CO. For more information contact Stuart Sanderson (303) 575-9199, or E-mail: [colomine@coloradomining.org](mailto:colomine@coloradomining.org), or visit [www.coloradomining.org](http://www.coloradomining.org)

## MARCH 2006

March 5-8: **PDAC 2006**, International Convention, Trade Show & Investors Exchange Mining Investment Show, Toronto ONT, Canada Phone (416) 362-1969 or visit [www.pdac.ca](http://www.pdac.ca)

If you have an event you would like to see posted on our website or added to our Bulletin Calendar of Events please contact Kathy Wilson at NWMA.

Phone (509) 624-1158, or  
E-mail [kwilson@nwma.org](mailto:kwilson@nwma.org).

