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MAY/JUNE 2000

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## An Extremely Important Election

*NWMA President Paul Jones says we must start sooner, work harder*

The general election of 2000 will be the most important in our lifetime, if not the most important election since the United States was founded. At stake is the direction our nation will go in the 21st Century.

During my professional career, the nature and makeup of our voting population has shifted from a voter constituency which either endured, or was strongly affected by, the Depression of the 1930s, to a much larger constituency which grew up in the prosperous years since World War II. The current generation has a much different background, and thus viewpoint, than I, and many of you. This viewpoint has and will continue to shape the future of our nation in the years to come.

This does not mean you and I cannot have an affect on the outcome of the direction of the "new generation." It only means we must start sooner and work harder to shape the outcome of the Election of 2000 – thus the focus of my letter to you early this summer.

The current administration's place in history may easily be seen as a "conservationist" administration. We all remember the election-year "buyout" of the Crown Butte Mine and the designation of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. There have been numerous mineral withdrawals for various, and sometimes questionable, reasons. In addition, there have been an entire series of regulatory decrees limiting the activities of the natural resource industry's use of public lands.

Only recently, there was another election-year designation of three additional national monuments in the West that removed even more acreage from the realm of natural resource development, i.e., mineral exploration. All these actions are only a prelude to "coming attractions" if the nominee of the current party in the White House wins in November.

The bulk of the voting population in the U.S. lives and votes east of the 100th Meridian. Most of the members of our Association live and work in the West. The West, except for the Pacific Coast, generally casts what few votes it has in a conservative manner. This does not mean those living in the Intermountain West do not have a voice on national matters; it only means WE MUST WORK EARLIER, SMARTER AND HARDER if we are to have an effect on the outcome of the November election.

Most of you have relatives and friends outside the West. Most of the service suppliers or vendors for our companies have offices, facilities and employees (i.e., VOTERS) east of the 100th Meridian. We must reach those people – those who can be our friends and political allies – and tell them THIS ELECTION MATTERS to the continuation of our natural resource industry as we know it today.

Don't wait until fall to begin this process. Begin now, and keep at it until Election Day. Contact as many people as you can with whom you might have influence – both in your local community and outside the West – and let them know how you view the Election of 2000.

To paraphrase an old adage, "CONTACT THE FOLKS EARLY AND CONTACT THEM OFTEN" on the importance of the coming election to our industry.

*Paul Jones  
Royal Victoria Minerals, Ltd.  
NWMA President 2000*

## NWMA Testifies Against “Roadless Areas” Rule

In a testimony supporting small business and natural resource-dependent communities at risk under the Clinton/Gore administration’s proposed “roadless areas” rule, transportation policy, new forest planning regulations and watershed policies, **Northwest Mining Association Executive Director, Laura Skaer**, targeted the U.S. Forest Service by stating that the agency “... is on a mission to turn our national forest lands into museum dioramas without natural resource production and without human visitors.”

Skaer’s remarks were made recently before the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Business Opportunities, and Special Small Business Problems at the request of Congressman Rick Hill (R-MT)

Skaer was asked to testify because 90 percent of NWMA’s members qualify as small businesses or work for small businesses. Also, NWMA is known to have special expertise on the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) gained in the organization’s successful 1997 lawsuit against the BLM and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt to invalidate *illegally* promulgated bonding regulations because the BLM failed to comply with the requirements of the RFA.

The RFA requires governmental agencies proposing new regulations to consider the economic impacts on small entities and analyze alternatives that will result in the least amount of harm to these small entities. The RFA specifically exempts the agency from these requirements if the agency head certifies that the new rule would not, if promulgated, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, and provides a factual basis to support the certification. NWMA contends that the Forest Service is not analyzing the impact of the roadless rule on small entities, and is not complying with RFA by not considering reasonable alternatives to the roadless proposal.

A prohibition on road building on 43 million acres of National Forest land is, in fact, a prohibition on mining, according to Skaer, “... and it strains the Forest Service’s credibility to say that a rule of this nature will have no ‘direct’ regulatory impact. Furthermore, the Forest Service has no statutory authority to prevent access to locatable minerals for exploration and development. This measure sends a strong message that the Forest Service will do everything it can to prevent access for mineral exploration and development, and directly contradicts the assertion by the Forest Service that ‘valid existing rights’ will be respected.”

“While the proposed rule gives ‘lip service’ to the General Mining Law’s statutory right-of-access, it is clear that the Forest Service does not acknowledge that this right could result in the building of new roads in roadless areas that do not currently contain operating mines or staked claims,” said Skaer. “The proposed rule threatens to eliminate the possibility of any road construction or repair, materially interfering with a miner’s statutory right to maintain and develop reasonable access necessary for current or future mining operations.”

The proposed rule is completely silent on how the Forest Service will preserve access for exploration and mineral development within roadless areas affected. The Forest Service states that “reasonable access” would be provided according to applicable statutes, but nowhere do they define or describe “reason-

able access,” said Skaer.

Also, “The proposed rule strongly implies that locatable minerals cannot be explored for or developed in inventoried roadless areas by current methods,” added the Executive Director. “It sends a strong message that the Forest Service will do everything it can to deny access for mineral exploration and development.” This interpretation of the Chief of the Forest Service Mike Dombeck’s plan is not based on a whim, but on the past record of the Clinton/Gore administration, especially the Department of the Interior and its solicitor, John Leshy.

NWMA further told the Subcommittee that the Forest Service did not consider several other obvious alternatives that would accomplish the objectives of the proposed rule while protecting small entities. These are: temporary roads, well-maintained roads, privately-maintained roads, and recognized RS 2477 roads. Indeed, in the past, the Forest Service has, on numerous projects, permitted access roads with reclamation stipulations in Wilderness Study Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Many NWMA members have successfully completed such projects while protecting the environment.

“If the federal government wishes to turn its forests into parks ... are we, as a nation, prepared to fairly compensate [rural] communities for pulling the economic rug out from under them? asked Skaer. “The Forest Service has failed to analyze the impact of the proposed rule on small entities and has not fairly considered regulatory alternatives that would minimize significant economic impacts.”

One of the main problems with this one-size-fits-all roadless plan — a plan that ignores state and local concerns — is that the Clinton/Gore administration is illegally using administrative rule making to create more wilderness areas rather than seeking proper authority from Congress. That is the shame of it all. But, then again, what else is new? \*

## “Comparative Value” Test is One Step Closer to Becoming a Reality

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt has hurled another spear at the domestic mining industry in an attempt to exile it to the tailings pile of history.

In the 1998 case of *United States v. United Mining Corporation*, in which the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) rejected the use of the “comparative value” test for mineral discovery under the Building Stone Act and General Mining Law, Babbitt’s recent overturning of the decision, based on his concept that a “chiefly valuable” mineral must meet aesthetic, emotional, ideological and political standards rather than economic standards, was deemed as generally foreboding by the domestic mining industry. (As one member said, “If it wasn’t so preposterous, it would be funny.”)

The IBLA previously determined that the term chiefly valuable contemplates that the measurement of mineral value must be quantifiable, thereby precluding the aesthetic or comparative values of the land on which the claims are located – a ruling overturned by Babbitt with respect to the Building Stone Act.

NWMA, in an amicus brief filed at the time the case went to court, took the position that what matters only is the value of the mineral deposit, and not the value or character of the land. Under

• Continued on page 6 •

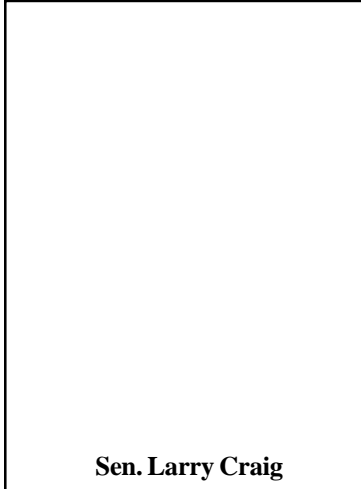
# Senator Craig's "Collaborative Conservation"

U.S. Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), an attendee at the recent Access 2000 Conference in Denver, came away from the meeting with a few important thoughts on the subject of *local solutions for federal land management*.

The following are excerpts and paraphrasings from a letter written by Senator Craig to NWMA Executive Director **Laura Skaer** concerning his ideas:

When we talk about public land management, there essentially are two schools of thought — conservation and preservation. And, while no one wants to destroy the environment, the dividing issue is how we view the role of humans in a healthy ecosystem.

Conservationists believe that responsible human activity is not only benign, but can improve the health of our environment. On the other hand, preservationists fundamentally believe that human activity is detrimental to our environment and should be limited as much as possible.



## Follow Teddy's lead

Teddy Roosevelt was a conservationist who believed that we can protect the environment while still using it, and he believed that we are an important part of a healthy ecosystem. His ideas are summed up in the inscription on his monument in our nation's capital: "Conservation means development as much as it does protection."

Indeed, Roosevelt established a series of federal land holdings, such as national parks and national forests, which would provide an opportunity for recreation and well as a stable supply of timber, rangelands, water, and access to minerals.

However, what we have seen over the last 30 years is a seemingly constant conflict between those who use the public land. What has resulted is a state of gridlock on our public lands with nothing being done — exactly what some people want.

What we conservationists need to realize is that we have a common denominator — we all require access to our public lands, and we all want to use that access responsibly. If we don't come together to find way to share the land, our access to our land will continue to be threatened.

And inroads are being made along those lines. Across the country, we are seeing communities coming together; traditionally feuding groups are finding common goals concerning public land use.

Quite frankly, this scares the Clinton/Gore administration and Washington, DC-based preservation groups. Why? Because these community groups are working out their differences on the local level, away from the control of the federal government, i.e., Stillwater Mining and local environmental groups.

## Collaborative Conservation

This is a process I call "Collaborative Conservation," a tool to unite the West around a common future. This process will change the face of federal land management in order to responsibly manage our public resources.

The principles of Collaborative Conservation include:

- all Americans have a right to participate in decisions affecting our public lands, understanding that each voice should be heard and honored;
- national public land management decisions should incorporate the unique character of the area under consideration, including local culture and values;
- decisions should be based on the very best scientifically credible information available;
- collaborative decisions should be defended from outside pressure, and local, state and federal legislative bodies must ensure that the collaborative efforts are not invalidated by standing bureaucracies;
- all management decisions should be flexible enough to incorporate change; and,
- the ultimate success of the endeavor rests on the willingness of the group to stay with the process over time and through adversity.

*Those interested in joining Sen. Craig's Collaborative Conservation effort may call Dan Whiting at 1-202-224-2752. \**

## PATENTED MINING AND/OR RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

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MESSAGE WITH NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER.**

# Why Coloradans are Opposing the Unfair Shutdown Amendment

*Another special interest group is trying to hijack Colorado's constitution to push its own agenda*

by J.J. Ament

## Chairman, Coloradans Opposing the Unfair Shutdown Amendment

In recent years, various special interest groups have tried to push their own political agendas by proposing amendments to Colorado's state constitution.

Now, another group is at it again. A small group of anti-mining activists who are upset about a badly-run, now-defunct gold mine in the San Luis Valley area has reacted by proposing a drastic constitutional amendment.

Their proposal, which *may* appear on the November 2000 state ballot, would:

- essentially ban gold mining statewide; and,

- unfairly force the premature shutdown of the well-run Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine (CC&V) in Teller County — a mine that has an excellent environmental record and is the county's single largest employer.

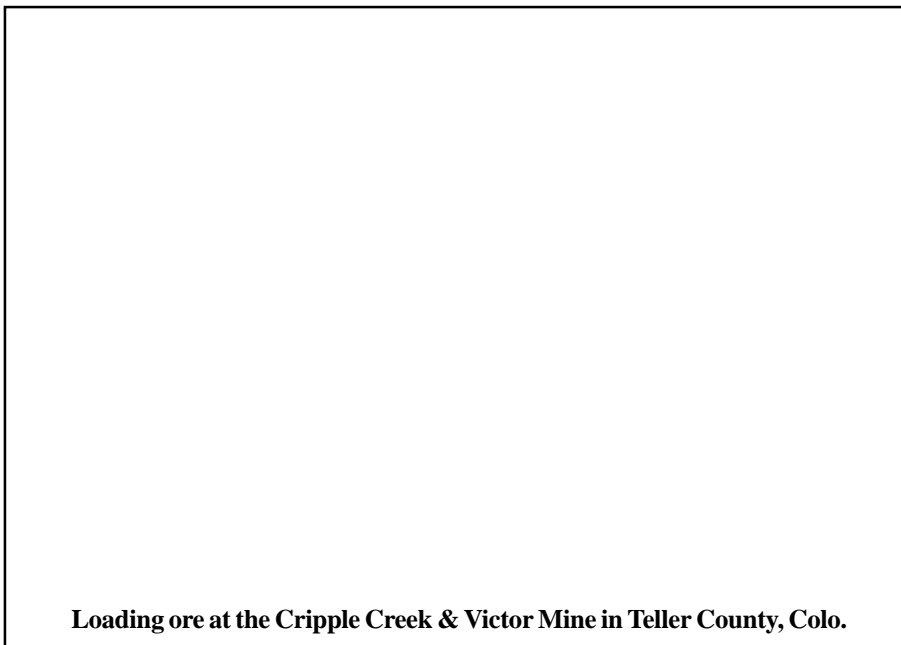
This extreme amendment is strongly opposed by the residents of Teller County and a statewide coalition of civic leaders, businesses and organizations. We believe it is just plain wrong to allow a special interest group to alter Colorado's state constitution in order to arbitrarily single out and shut down one business or industry.

In addition, it would be totally unfair to throw hundreds of Coloradans out of work by shutting down a major local employer that is abiding by all environmental, health and safety regulations set by the federal government and by the State of Colorado — which now has some of the strictest mining regulations of any state in the nation.

### Proposed amendment is not what it seems

The promoters of the shutdown amendment claim that it is simply designed to "stop the spread of open-pit, cyanide gold mining in Colorado." In reality, their amendment would essentially prohibit any future gold or silver mining projects in our state. That's because almost all modern gold and silver mines are surface mines that use chemical solutions containing cyanide as part of the refining process.

The promoters of the amendment claim that it "allows existing mines to proceed under existing permits, but not to expand."



**Loading ore at the Cripple Creek & Victor Mine in Teller County, Colo.**

In fact, there currently is only one operating gold mine in Colorado — the Cripple Creek & Victor Mine — and the amendment would force an early shutdown of that mine. That's because mines regularly need new permits and must expand at least downward (by mining deeper) in order to continue operating.

### Promoters say ban gold/silver mining

The promoters of the amendment say that modern gold and silver mines should be banned just because they use cyanide in their refining process. What they don't say is that cyanide is commonly used in many other industries and processes in Colorado, including: electroplating; photographic development; as anti-caking agents in road salt; and in the manufacture of dyes, pigments, organic chemicals, synthetic materials and plastics.

Moreover, cyanide is used as part of the modern process for extracting other base and precious metals at mines in Colorado and other states. *In other words, the shutdown amendment would arbitrarily allow other industries and mines in Colorado to use cyanide, but it would shut down gold or silver mining for using the very same chemical.*

### The measure is deceptive and illogical

The promoters of the shutdown amendment claim their measure would allow the CC&V operation to continue operating

"for five or more years" before it would be forced to shut down. In fact, the amendment's language is vague and open to widely varying interpretations on this point.

*If passed by Colorado voters, the amendment could force the CC&V mine to close as early as next year.*

If the CC&V Mine really posed any imminent danger, why would their amendment allow it to operate for another five years? And, if the mine does operate safely, without any problems during the next five years — as it has over the past five years — why should it be shut down in 2005?

The truth is, this is just another aspect of the amendment that makes no sense. State and federal regulators already have authority to shut down any mine that violates today's strict environmental regulations. As long as a mine operates in compliance with these strict regulations and reclaims the land it uses, there is no reason why it should be shut down.

### The CC&V mine is a vital local employer

Teller County is a small rural county in south-central Colorado where mining has long been one of the only major industries and employers. Less than 9,000 families live in the entire county, and the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine is the single largest employer. A recent economic study found that the mine supports over

800 local jobs, pays among the highest salaries in the area and generates over \$30 million per year in wages and salaries. In fact, nearly 13% of all jobs, and nearly 16% of all personal income in Teller County, depend on the CC&V Mine.

### **The CC&V Mine: a good corporate citizen, an excellent environmental record**

The CC&V Mine began operating in the mid-1990s, after the state government adopted strict new regulations for surface gold mines. *It is a zero-release facility that recycles all the chemicals it uses and does not release any chemicals onto the surface or into the groundwater.*

Employees at the CC&V mine receive special training on how to handle all chemicals safely, and the mine monitors areas where chemicals are used to ensure there are no leaks or spills.

The owners of the CC&V mine have already posted a \$23 million bond in advance with the State of Colorado to guarantee that the mine site will be reclaimed and replanted.

And, if state regulators determine that more money is needed for reclamation and replanting, they can require the mine owners to post a larger bond to assure there is enough money to do all the work that needs to be done.

*The mine has won prestigious awards*

*from the state for land reclamation and historic preservation.* It is one of the largest local taxpayers, and the company and its employees are major supporters of local community events, charities and volunteer programs.

This amendment would be totally unfair and devastating to the people of Teller County.

People in rural areas like Teller County need and deserve the opportunity to make responsible use of their natural resources to create jobs and maintain a viable economy.

The overwhelming majority of Teller County residents strongly support the continued operation of the mine and oppose the shutdown amendment. It is simply not right or fair for people from other parts of the state to dictate, with a drastic constitutional amendment, the employment situation of hundreds of Teller County residents and devastate the county's economy by shutting down a major, well-liked local employer that abides by all our state's laws and regulations.

### **The shutdown amendment could cost Colorado taxpayers millions of dollars**

The owners of the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine have invested over \$100 million in their project. All permits for building and operating the mine were granted

after public hearings and input from environmental experts, state regulators, local residents, and other interested parties from all across Colorado.

If the unfair shutdown amendment passes, the courts could require the State of Colorado to compensate the mine owners for their investments and lost earnings. Those compensation costs would ultimately be paid by Colorado taxpayers through higher taxes by taking away millions of dollars in revenues from state programs, such as education and highway improvements.

Please join us in opposing this unfair, deceptive and costly measure. A coalition of community leaders, businesses and organizations from throughout the state are joining together to oppose this ill-advised attempt to alter our state's constitution.

Our group is called Coloradans Opposing the Unfair Shutdown Amendment. Our members may disagree on many other issues — including mining issues — but we all oppose the drastic, unfair shutdown amendment. You can help by becoming a member of our coalition. Joining will cost you nothing, but it could save a lot of Colorado jobs and tax dollars.

#### **Please contact us at:**

*Coloradans Opposing the Unfair Shutdown Amendment*, P.O. Box 3059, Denver, CO 80201-3059, or call 303/575-9199. \*

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## **Short Courses of Interest to NWMA Members**

Here are two Short Courses that will be of interest to many **NWMA** members.

### **Fire Assay Short Course**

A short course on the *Fundamentals and Applications of Fire Assay* will be presented Aug. 21-25 at Montana Tech in Butte.

This is a comprehensive course designed to provide fundamental, laboratory and industrial training in Fire Assay, and will be valuable to both technical and non-technical personnel.

The course will include: 2.5 days of lecture and labs, fundamentals of sampling,

fundamentals of gold, silver and PGM fire assay, and a fire assay lab session.

Tours will include facilities at Stillwater Mining Co. in Columbus, ASARCO in East Helena, the Golden Sunlight Mine in Whitehall, and the Montana Tunnels Mine in Jefferson City.

Call 406/496-4794 for details.

### **Blast Design Short Course**

NWMA member **Golder Associates** is sponsoring a short course on *Blast Design and Assessment for Surface and Underground Mines and Quarries* at the Reno Hilton, Oct. 23-25.

The course is designed for engineers, supervisors and personnel involved in the design and implementation of blasting in hardrock mines and quarries.

The basic two-day course will provide a review of basic blasting theory and prod-

ucts, but will emphasize blast design and assessment of blasting practices.

Computer methods of blast design and prediction of blast performance will be illustrated using a series of current programs.

An optional third day will be dedicated to blast vibration and airblast monitoring.

Contact Graeme Major at 775/828-9604; Email is [gmajor@golder.com](mailto:gmajor@golder.com). \*

## EPA Disregards Own Study and Congressional Procedures ... Again

Regulations recently implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that require one-third of the nation's gasoline supply to be reformulated gasoline (RFG), ostensibly to reduce air pollution, have contributed significantly to the increase in gas prices in several Midwestern states.

The EPA issued their ruling despite a study by the National Research Council (NRC), an arm of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, which concluded that RFG would do little to reduce air pollution.

The oxygen additive in RFG, methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), is, according to the EPA, supposed to lower environmentally-harmful vehicle emissions. But the NRC study found that MTBE has only a minimal effect on reducing smog.

Although the EPA funded the 1999 study, *they ignored the study's conclusions and proceeded with its plans to implement the costly rules anyway.*

John Carlisle, Director of the National Center for Public Policy Research, said of the EPA, "They have employed junk science to justify a burdensome and costly regulation while ignoring the advice of sound science. *This is truly a new low for the EPA.*"

In another EPA power grab, the agency, with the backing of the Clinton/Gore administration, defied Congress by imposing new pollution controls to protect thousands of lakes and streams from agricultural and industrial pollution. Congressional Republicans and some farm-state Democrats were angered by what one lawmaker called an "EPA power grab."

Under the regulation issued by the EPA, states must develop details plans to reduce pollution in more than 20,000 lakes, streams and bays that do not now meet minimum federal water quality standards. The regulation is aimed at a 15-year cleanup of 40% of the nation's waterways.

*Critics of the regulation say it would cost billions of dollars annually and take away from states the flexibility needed to deal with water pollution problems.* EPA Director Carol Browner denies that allegation.

Congress had previously added language to a spending bill that would bar

the EPA from issuing the water regulations for 18 months. Browner, however, at the direction of the Clinton/Gore administration, went ahead anyway, only two days before Clinton was expected to sign the legislation into law.

"It's a tremendous thumb in the eye to the Congress," said Sen. Tim Hutchinson (R-Ark.), echoing the sentiments of scores of GOP lawmakers.

Congressional opponents of the measure have 60 days to overturn the ruling that would go into effect on Oct. 1, 2001.

Usurping congressional authority without debate and voting is not the way we're supposed to do things in this country, no matter how noble the proposals may sound. Underlying the measure is an attempt to wrest power from local authority and centralize power in Washington. \*

## Wages Move Up Underground

People working at underground mines make more than their counterparts at surface mines, according to a report by NWMA member **Western Mine Engineering**. Environmental Coordinators are the only exception to this trend, with those at surface mines making about 7% less than their peers at underground operations.

While no one has it easy anymore, the disparity probably is due to the broader environmental concerns that surface operations need to deal with. However, it literally pays to be a general manager at an underground mine. At an average salary of \$133,600 per year, they make about 23% more than general managers at surface mines. \*

## Barrick Wins TRI Suit on Appeal

**Barrick Goldstrike Mines** has won a significant procedural victory in a Washington, D.C. District Court that will allow Barrick to argue the merits of its case (*Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc. v. Browner*) against the EPA in the District Court.

Previously, Barrick had challenged EPA's application of the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program to Barrick's operations, alleging that:

- the EPA had revised the TRI program to include mining;
- the revisions are substantive; and,

- *the substantive revisions were not made via rulemaking.*

The District Court had dismissed Barrick's complaint both for lack of jurisdiction and because it considered the complaint "unripe." But the Circuit Court overturned that ruling, considering it "ripe." The case will be heard again in District Court. \*

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## "Comparative Value"

- **Continued from page 2**

the General Mining Law, a valuable mineral deposit exists where the quality and character of the mineral deposit indicates the minerals may be extracted economically. There is no other honest, rational basis for making such a decision.

However, because the Clinton/Gore administration's warm and fuzzy view of society must take into account non-quantifiable standards — scenic, historic, recreational, or the potential harm to any animal or plant that might choose to inhabit the mining claim in the future. There also is the potential spiritual deprivation of any urban dweller who might become distressed when learning that mining claims exist where the deer and antelope play. Honestly, it's a wonder that any mining operation still exists in the U.S.

Additionally, NWMA stands behind the idea that Babbitt has no legal authority to administratively amend the General Mining Law by decree. *For, if the validity of a mining claim is made to depend on the subjective assessment of "comparative value," the environmentalists have succeeded in their version of mining law reform.*

Their objective is straightforward: If Interior can invalidate a mining claim by determining that a property's aesthetic value is more valuable than the land's mineral value, then the claimant has no rights on the basis of valuable mineral discovery. This is just another effort by Interior at quasi-rulemaking to repeal the General Mining Law by avoiding industry input.

Will the anti-mining forces in this country leave no stone unturned and use every emotional ruse to destroy the domestic natural resources industries? Just the fact of public consideration of the idea of comparative values shows that the anti-mining forces are playing outside the rules of the legal system; however, the acceptance of their tactics as anything but laughable by any portion of the population is the real reason for concern. \*

## Rural Communities: No Nation Without Them

*The League of Rural Voters is a welcome addition to the political scene*  
by **Kathleen Jachowski**

Americans are getting ready for their favorite exercise: voting for candidates to guide the nation — or misguide the nation depending on one's viewpoint. During campaigns and elections, rural issues seldom make the six o'clock news, national talk show topics or newspaper headlines.

The League of Rural Voters (LRV) is a long-overdue, nonpartisan effort to change that reality. The League is a 501c4 membership entity. It will serve to provide citizens with track records on elected officials so individuals can make informed voter decisions. While it has been launched in Montana and Wyoming, there is interest from states countrywide.

The League is not a "fast food fix" for what is ailing rural America. It is a long-term effort to provide rural Americans with a self-help mechanism to have their interests listened to within the political arena.

Twenty percent of our nation's population of 270,000,000 lives in rural areas. That's a nonpartisan rural constituency of 54,000,000 people. Estimating a 70% eligible voting block, of which 80% actually vote, produces a potential swing vote of 30,000,000 rural Americans.

Leveraging this constituency as a swing vote on rural issues (mining, logging, ranching) and values is a primary goal of the League. State and national scorecards will be used to track the voting records of elected officials. Having votes regularly recorded in all state legislatures will be part of the scorecard development.

All too often, the voice of rural America is lost in the overwhelming demographics of urban areas. Agricultural and natural resource industries are the foundation of not only rural America, but of this nation. History has consistently shown that without rural communities no nation has ever been built or maintained.

The cultural and economic importance of this simple fact has become lost to a world where the term 'hands on' now refers to a computer keyboard. Rural communities, unfortunately, across this nation are being reformatted into a software package without any hard drive.

Reversing this trend is possible when people work together to translate their numbers into political power. Election 2000

will see many state Legislatures change as a result of term limits. Governor slots will also experience transition. The loss of elected officials who respect and understand rural values and traditions is possible without citizen involvement.

Rural voters from various sectors frequently share single-issue concerns. These can be declining tax bases, rural health care, rural schools, senior citizens etc. No one political party has ownership of these. Having elected officials vote the issue and not the party in this regard is where many solutions can be found.

Additionally, many areas around the country experience the misfortune of electing candidates who campaign under the strongest party name for the sole purpose of getting elected.

These folks then proceed to vote on public policies and laws that deviate from the philosophy of what citizens thought they stood for. Scorecards will help voters determine for themselves the sincerity of an elected official's rhetoric.

The LRV website, [www.ruralvoters.org](http://www.ruralvoters.org), will become the central information and recruitment area for the League of Rural Voters. Interested individuals can contact the League via the web site, or by writing to LRV, P.O. Box 1008, Whitehall, MT 59759.

Each state will be online as participant

groups successfully network to have their state join the effort. Party affiliation is irrelevant to membership. Each state's web site will reflect state-determined issues, as well as national issues that affect rural communities. In spite of what the many social and cultural engineers would have us believe, the foundations of rural life in America are not built on bed and breakfasts, gift shops and museums displaying life as it used to be.

*Rural America is a living legacy. It is a legacy of diversity of culture and economics. Such diversity has created a very rich spirit to which the urban sector is so desperate to reconnect.*

Rural communities are where the strength of our nation is protected, where balance begins and where the future will always lie. History has proven, again and again, that *without rural communities there are no nations.*

Rural communities subsidize the spirit of this nation. The League of Rural Voters will help ensure that this spiritual legacy of what rural communities contribute to this nation will always be there to re-strengthen and reconnect these United States.

*Jachowski is a freelance writer and public speaker on natural resource and cultural issues. Her website is [www.wtp.net/solu](http://www.wtp.net/solu). \**

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## Journalist's Forum on Mining's Public Image

Why does the national media perceive the mining industry as they do? Do they really understand the consequences of their generally anti-mining positions? Is the national media's agenda intellectual or political? How can mining present itself in the national media as a necessary *and* environmentally-compliant industry?

These and other questions will be answered Wednesday, Dec. 6 at **NWMA's 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** in Spokane.

The Journalist's Forum on Mining's Public Image will present a panel of invited journalists that include Dave Duval, a former editor of *The Northern Miner*, Audrey Hudson of the *Washington Times*, Chris Peck of the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*, Lorrie Baumann of the *Battle Mountain Bugle*, and Richard Ducote of the *Arizona Daily Star*.

The session will be co-chaired by **Bruce Rubin** of **NWMA** and **Richard Shepard** of **Modern Mining Information Source**.

A discussion of pertinent media issues by the panel will be peppered by enthusiastic audience participation.

Key questions to be covered will include: 1) Are mining's efforts to communicate their point of view lacking in sincerity or substance, or is the national media's mind already made up concerning our industry? 2) Why doesn't the national media give modern mining credit for mining in an environmentally-compliant manner, and why do they disregard our technological advances to responsibly protect the environment? 3) How can mining and the national media learn to trust each other, to communicate effectively, to become advocates for high technological standards rather than adversaries in perpetual conflict? and, 4) How can the agendas of production and environmental responsibility coexist?

Mark your calendar now to attend this groundbreaking session. \*

## Joint Public Lands Meeting Held in Reno

A landmark event in developing a new approach to countering the anti-mining agenda of the Clinton/Gore administration was recently held in Reno, Nev., with more than 30 prominent mining industry professionals attending.

Attendees at the Joint Public Lands Committee meeting included representatives of The Northwest Mining Association, The National Mining Association and state mining associations from Alaska, California, Colorado, Nevada and Wyoming.

"This meeting demonstrated the strengths and synergism that can be realized when we work together to confront the challenges that threaten the future of our industry," said **Laura Skaer**, NWMA's Executive Director.

"Denise Jones, the Executive Director of the California Mining Association, Russ Fields, President of the Nevada Mining Association and I recognize the need to pool our collective resources in these times of diminished operating budgets, depressed commodity prices and unprecedented political, legislative and administration attacks against the US mining industry," explained Skaer.

In the last few years, these attacks have taken the form of the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's activities that seek to

change the general mining laws while circumventing Congress' constitutional legislative authority.

### New approach needed

"The mining industry needs a new approach if we are to stop the administration's attempts to cut Congress out of the picture and overrule existing law through Solicitor's opinions and rulemakings," said Skaer.

"And the increasing use of ballot initiatives, and the administration's current penchant for roadless initiatives and land grabs, all point to the urgent need for a new strategy," Skaer added.

Skaer added that the Joint Public Lands Committee is the first step in developing new and more effective ways for the industry to engage in these battles. The association representatives at the meeting agreed to create a list of four or five "top priority issues" to help focus the associations' collective energies in the coming months.

"This will allow each association to capitalize on its strengths while minimizing duplication and overlap," Skaer said. "This really is a case in which the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." \*

## Back to Basics

The following is taken from an essay entitled "Back to Basics," that appeared in the May 30, 2000 issue of the *Member's Bulletin* of the B.C. Environmental Information Institute.

We reprint it here in an attempt to put human needs (with respect to natural resources) into perspective ...

High on most people's lists of "essentials of life" are good health care, high-quality education, job protection, pension plans and environmental protection.

But the basics of food and shelter are considered to be a given. Our society has advanced so far that the "basics" of food and shelter are no longer issues we even think about.

But who is it that provides the basics of life to us all. They are the miners, loggers, ranchers, farmers and fishermen — the providers of the foundation on which everything else is built.

Yet, the basics are not even considered in the list of essentials of life? A researcher by the name of A.H. Maslow has devised

a theory which he calls *The Hierarchy of Needs*, with physiological needs ("basics") at the foundation, and self-actualization needs ("intellectual") at the pinnacle.

- Self-Actualization
- Self-Esteem Needs
- Belonging Needs
- Safety/Health Needs
- Physiological Needs

His research indicates that as the lower-level needs (basics) are satisfied, the individual stops thinking about them and concentrates on the needs that are not being satisfied.

Certainly, most of our basic needs have been satisfied; therefore, more and more time is being devoted to more intellectual needs. The most intellectual need is self-actualization, which, according to Maslow, is only being considered by about two percent of the population.

As a means of achieving self-actualization, many people are caught up in environmental issues; but without the intellectual background skills to be constructive, they only use the tools provided by a liberal arts education, taught by teachers who have forgotten the importance of the basics.

The bottom line is that our social system has provided nearly all the basic needs; subsequently, the people who produced the basics and created the wealth to satisfy their availability in the first place — the miners, the loggers, the ranchers, the farmers, the fishermen — have been forgotten.

Now, a large number of people are actively working, either directly or inadvertently, to destroy the basic industries that support our whole social system in the interests of "preserving" the environment. This happens when people forget they are walking on solid ground when they have their heads in the clouds all the time.

The solution lies in education. People need to understand the need for the basics and the cultures of the people that provide them. Without education on the importance of "basic" industries, those industries will wither away, and with it the important cultures that are basic to North American civilization. \*

## Don't Miss The 13th Annual Coeur d'Alene Mining Contest!

Saturday, Aug. 5  
Gene Day Park  
Osburn, Idaho

### EVENTS

**MEN - Hand Mucking, Jackleg Drilling, 12-B Mucking and Spike Driving.**

**WOMEN - Hand Mucking and Spike Driving.**

Call Lovon at 208/556-1181,  
Hank at 208/556-1164  
or Doug at 208/744-1751 for  
event registration information.

# Facts and Misconceptions About Metals Explained in New Book

*Metals in the Global Environment: Facts and Misconceptions*, written by Professor Iain Thornton of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London, England, emphasizes the importance of sound scientific knowledge for developing well-founded regulations.

The book is published by the International Council on Metals & the Environment (ICME), 294 Albert St., Suite 506, Ottawa, ON, K1P 6E6.

Thornton's book addresses a variety of issues concerning the sources, dispersion and behavior of metals in the environment, and the essential roles and potential toxicity of plants, animals and humans.

Metals exist as natural components of all environmental media, often in relatively high concentrations. However, it is the man-made transfer of metals to the environment from industrial activities that has attracted the attention of regulatory agencies.

These anthropogenic sources of metals in the environment are derived from a number of sources, including metal-related industries, agriculture, energy production and transportation.

A number of misconceptions regarding metals must be addressed in order to deal with environmental concerns related to metals in a rational and cost-effective manner.

## Misconceptions revealed

A number of these misconceptions discussed in the book are summarized below:

1) *That metals found in the environment are only anthropogenic in origin.* In reality, however, metals are a natural part of all components of the environment and are found in varying concentrations in geologic strata, which act as the source for elements in the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere;

2) *That all metals are toxic, regardless of the form in which they exist.* While it is true that some metals are toxic, they are only toxic under certain circumstances, such as when they are present in high concentrations and in specific mineral or chemical forms that are soluble and biologically available;

3) *That all metals exhibit the same behavior as synthetic organic chemicals in the environment.* Unlike most organic compounds which remain mobile and frequently degrade into equally- or more-toxic substances, metals usually (though not necessarily always) stabilize to less soluble forms through weathering and interaction with other substances in the environment;

4) *That metals are readily mobile and are likely to migrate from soils and waste materials into rivers, groundwater and aquifers.* Different metals and forms of metals exhibit markedly contrasting ranges of solubility and mobility. For example, lead in most forms is relatively immobile; also, recent experimental studies have shown that metals migrate to only a small extent within the soil-rock column, even over a period of hundreds of years;

5) *That a metal and its compounds exhibit similar properties and thus can be assessed on their mere presence and total concentration in the environment (the basis of the TRI controversy).* In reality, the chemical and mineral species in which metals occur have a major influence on their bioavailability and, thus, their passage into the food chain.

## Urgent needs

The Thornton treatise also draws attention to a number of urgent research needs that would lead to:

- increased knowledge of factors influencing the bioavailability of metals;
- better understanding of the mechanisms of “metal uptake” in plants, animals and humans;
- the development and standardization of analytical procedures to quantify metal species and biologically-active metals in all environmental compartments; and,
- the development of a more realistic basis for risk assessments of metals.

Thornton concludes by drawing attention to the need for regulatory agencies to base their decisions and regulations on the best scientific data and evidence available, and on sound risk-assessment strategies with the object of managing risk in a cost-effective manner.

Environmental issues often are presented in confrontational terms, and frequently in terms of “industry versus regulators.” Decision making based on scientific knowledge will greatly aid in resolving such conflict. \*

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## Condition of Federal Land Declining

As Congress prepares to add more land to the federal estate for “conservation” purposes, the condition of lands already under federal control continues to decline.

Current federal land stewardship is doing more harm than good. “If we are to protect America’s most valued lands, federal land management policies must be reformed, and private conservation efforts encouraged,” says Bozeman, Mont.-based Political Economy Research Center (PERC) researcher Holly Lippke Fretwell.

In her new report, *Federal Estate: Is Bigger Better?* Fretwell points out that one-third of the land area of the United States is under federal control. Acreage continues to be added at a rate of more than 800,000 acres per year and will rapidly increase if proposed legislation, targeted specifically for land acquisitions, is passed.

*While federal land ownership expands, funds for managing these newly-acquired lands are not entirely forthcoming. President Clinton’s Land Legacy Initiative, which will provide \$1 billion a year for land acquisitions, has set aside no funds for addressing critical resource management problems.*

Any land manager knows that protecting resources requires “management at a price.” Merely placing land into federal ownership without addressing its management needs in no way ensures conservation, and can actually lead to greater degradation.

Government, at any level, should own property *only if* a compelling natural resource need must be met and cannot be encouraged by private enterprise.

To protect valuable federal lands, managers must face economic realities rather than kowtowing to Congress for their budgets. And private efforts should be encouraged by expanding the flexibility of conservation easements and easing the tax burden. \*

## NWMA Answers Governor's Charges

In late June, Washington Governor Gary Locke, issued a statement concerning the health and environmental problems in the Spokane River allegedly caused by long-time mining practices in the Silver Valley of Idaho to the east.

"Our citizens should be able to fish and swim in the Spokane River without worrying about contaminated fish and sediments," Locke said, calling for a full and thorough Superfund cleanup in the Spokane River Basin.

Locke's statement was made in response to a report by the Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) that pointed to elevated lead levels in the river.

In response to Gov. Locke's statement, **Northwest Mining Association's Executive Director, Laura Skaer**, wrote a letter to the Governor expressing the organization's disappointment and concern with the inaccurate and inflammatory statements made by his office concerning the health of the Spokane River and the need for a Superfund cleanup.

"We are writing to express our disappointment and concern with the inaccurate and inflammatory statements issued from your office concerning the health of the Spokane River Basin and whether or not a Superfund cleanup is needed.

"It appears that your office is seriously misinformed about the issues, current mining practices in Idaho, the role of legal and socially-acceptable past mining practices in Idaho, the other sources of heavy metals in the Spokane River basin, and the

modern mining industry's environmental responsibility.

"Your statement focuses on finding fault and frightening the public," wrote Skaer, "and ignores decades of studies by state and federal agencies that support the following facts:

- The Spokane River meets all federal and state Clean Water Act metal standards for safe drinking water;

- There is no documented evidence of an adverse impact to human health from trace metals in the Spokane River;

- The Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin ecosystem is healthy, productive and continuing to improve;

- Recent sediment sampling by the U.S. Geological Survey and the EPA suggests sources other than Idaho mining may have contributed to heavy metals in Spokane River sediments.

"To suggest that a single, ultraconservative fish study further illustrates the need for a full and thorough Superfund cleanup in the Spokane River Basin is ill advised at best, and irresponsible at worst. Your response clearly is disproportionate to the risk."

Indeed, one of the important findings of the WDOE study was that, *there are no increased health risks for most people who eat fillets from fish caught in the Spokane River.*

"Any decision regarding the expansion of the Superfund cleanup in Washington State should be based on evidence, not just the agenda of a local environmental group [The Land's Council]," wrote Skaer. "It is not in Spokane's best interest, nor in the best interests of the state, to sacrifice local control and state primacy over water quality programs in the hope of attracting federal dollars. Superfund dollars are not free.

"If the upper section of the Spokane River is declared a Superfund site, everyone in the chain of title to land ownership, everyone who ever conducted an activity in that area at anytime, and every discharger into the river will become a potentially responsible party under CERCLA [Superfund law].

"Would it not be better to identify those sites that need to be cleaned up and develop cleanup strategies ourselves using collaborative processes?

"Developing a cleanup plan for the Coeur d'Alene/Spokane River Basin is not all that difficult, if we take Superfund, EPA

and 'blame-and-shame' politics out of the picture and put our limited resources into cleanup strategies that work and are cost effective.

"The citizens of Spokane and Eastern Washington deserve better from their governor." \*

## Zimbabwe May Seize Foreign-Owned Mines

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe will consider seizing foreign-owned mines and other firms as part of his campaign to "Africanize" the nation's assets.

Mugabe, whose government has supported the occupation of more than 1,400 privately-owned farms by squatters this year, said foreign-owned gold, copper, asbestos and iron mines face seizure once his government completes the redistribution of millions of acres of privately-owned land.

"After land, we now must look at the mining sector," Mugabe said. "There must be Africans as owners, not just as workers." He completed his comments to a British newspaper by saying, "There are too many Britons in Zimbabwe."

According to Mugabe, there are many Africans who are trained as engineers of all kinds, but they are not owners. \*

## Cyanide Symposium

The Extraction and Processing Division of the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS) is sponsoring a symposium on Cyanide: Social, Industrial and Economic Aspects at the TMS annual meeting in New Orleans, Feb. 11-15, 2001.

This international symposium is co-sponsored by the **Northwest Mining Association** and the International Precious Metals Institute.

The symposium will focus on cyanide and its impact on processing, the environment and society. There will be five sessions: Production and Uses; Processing Practices and Innovations; Recovery and Destruction; Fundamentals; and Alternatives.

Two additional sessions will include presentations on politics and spills, as well as a panel discussion on the targeting of the use of cyanide in mining by the environmental movement.

*See page 16 for symposium contact information.* \*

**HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR CONVENTION BROCHURE YET?**

**IF NOT, EMAIL PAT AT PATB@NWMA.ORG AND SHE'LL SEND YOU ONE RIGHT AWAY!**



# HPT's New Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Process

Grass Valley, Calif.-based **HPT Research, Inc.**, an **NWMA** corporate member, has developed new patented and patent-pending processes that provide viable economic and environmental solutions to the many problems associated with acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment.

The Ionic State Modification process (ISM) consistently removes high concentrations of heavy metals to near or below-detectable limits in acid drainage waters. Wastewater containing highly-chelated materials, emulsions and mixtures of soluble organic materials, including MTBE, have successfully been treated.

Numerous tests conducted on AMD from the Iron Mountain and Leviathan mines in northern California, reduced metal concentrations to nondetectable levels. Similar results were attained from exhaustive tests at the Berkeley Pit in Butte, Mont.

## Unique features

HPT's ISM process has several unique features, advantages and benefits that place it in the forefront of new AMD treatment technology. The process:

- extracts all heavy metals while producing a relatively small volume of metal hydroxide sludge;
- produces a pure anhydrous calcium sulfate that is void of any metal contamination, with potential value as an agricultural soil amendment or for safe, on-site disposal;
- has the capability of reducing sulfates in the final effluent to extremely low ppm levels;
- produces a final effluent of such quality that will easily meet discharge limits. Frequently, the final effluent quality meets or exceeds federal drinking water standards;
- in most cases, generates the majority of the required raw material treatment additive directly from the acid influent stream. Specifically, it manufactures a specific compound from the AMD that is then reinjected to precipitate the metals separation process.

## How it works

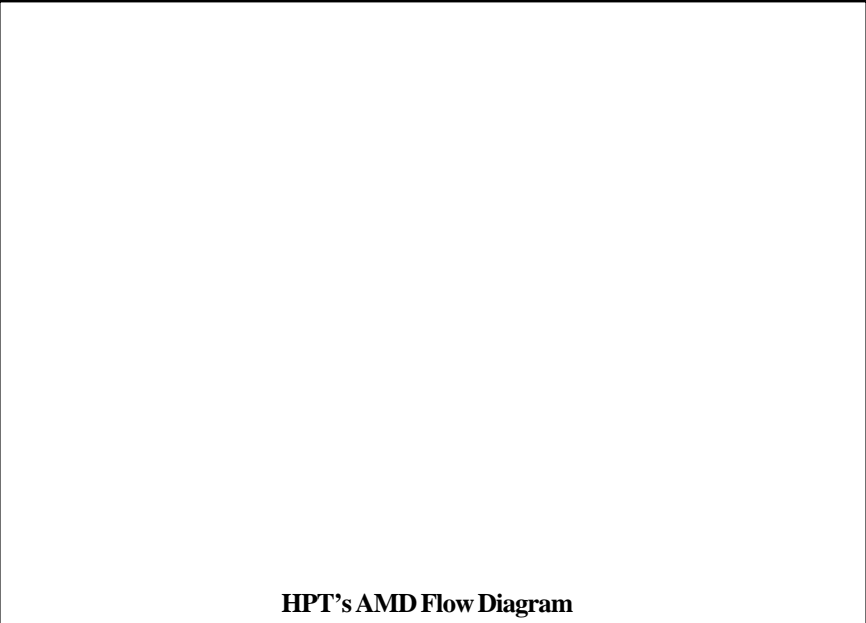
The ISM process technology provides the means of altering ionic structures of contaminant materials in acid waste streams in to a state that allows the contaminants to precipitate out of solution.

The differences between conventional AMD processes and HPT's ISM process is that other treatments merely trade one form of contamination for another — from liquid to solid. Conventional systems consume large amounts of chemical additives that create large amounts of hazardous sludge that lead to storage and disposal problems. Subsequently, large chemical additives increase operational costs, and large sludge volumes increase disposal costs. These expenses can make up at least 75% of total AMD treatment costs.

Each ISM process is custom formulated to fit each situation

— since no two AMD streams are the same — and can be utilized on flow regimes from 5 to 10 gallons per day up to several million gpd.

All claims made by HPT Research, pertaining to the effectiveness of the ISM process — the reduction in heavy metals, residual sulfate levels and the quality of the final process effluent — can be substantiated by tests performed by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California State University-Fresno and Montana Tech, and have been successfully demonstrated on minesites near Shasta Lake and Happy Camp, Calif. \*



HPT's AMD Flow Diagram



**GOT "AMD" PROBLEMS?**  
*The Ionic State Modification Process*  
**The Economic and Environmental Solution for all your Acid Mine Drainage problems.**

- **Environmentally Sound and Cost-Effective.**
- **Removes all metals without generating large volumes of contaminated sludge.**

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[www.hptresearch.com](http://www.hptresearch.com)**

# STATE AND PROVINCIAL REPORTS

## ALASKA

### Mining Law Amended

The Alaska Miners Association reports that the state legislature amended the state mining law during the recent session. Under the terms of SB 175, Alaska miners will be able to stake state mining locations of a complete quarter section (160 acres) or a quarter-quarter section (40 acres), to take effect August 21, 2000.

The new system is called the Meridian, Township, Range, Section and Claim Location System (MTRSC). As one might expect, the locator is required to stake the corners of the claim as closely as possible to the existing quarter section or quarter-quarter section corners as established under the national land survey system.

The time for recording a new location has been shortened for 90 to 45 days. For more information contact the AMA at 907/563-9229 or check the Alaska section of your **NWMA** Service Directory for recording offices and Division of Mining contacts to obtain the new rules. \*

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Mine Blocked Along B.C. River

A British Columbia Supreme Court judge blocked, at least temporarily, a controversial mine project, the Tulsequah Chief Mine Project owned by Redfern Resources, along a major salmon-producing river that runs from B.C. into Alaska.

The judge ruled that the provincial government failed to meaningfully consult the Tlingit Indians when it approved the mine and construction of an access road along the Taku River.

The proposed mine is located at the site of a closed mine on a tributary of the Taku, about 12 miles upstream from the U.S.-Canadian border about 40 miles east of Juneau.

U.S. officials have voiced strong doubts about the copper-gold mine, protesting that a B.C. environmental review panel gave U.S. agencies just 48 hours to respond to its 140-page evaluation of the project. The Taku is B.C.'s third largest salmon-producing river, but its location is such that it is fished mostly by Alaskans.

The U.S. EPA's concern was whether a proposed system for impounding the mine's tailings would be adequate to withstand potential flooding.

B.C.'s mining industry has argued that the project is economically sound and environmentally benign. \*

## COLORADO

### Mining Industry Wins Colorado Case

The Colorado Supreme Court recently upheld the mining industry's argument regarding the appeal of the Colorado Title Board's prior decision approving the title, summary and submissions clause of a proposed ballot initiative to ban certain types of gold and silver surface mining in the state.

The court agreed with industry's contention that the titles of the initiative were misleading in that they prohibited mine owners from expanding the physical operations of existing mines, regardless of whether their present permit allows them to do so.

As a result, the court said, the text of the initiative is contrary to the titles because the initiative itself would prohibit only modification of existing mining permits to allow a mine to expand its operations. It directed the Title Board to approve the language as modified by the court.

The decision effectively invalidates any signatures the petitioners already have collected based upon the original, defective petition language, including those collected during an Earth Day signature drive.

Although petitioners will be authorized to collect signatures based on the revised language following a title-setting hearing, the court's ruling effectively constitutes a legal setback to their efforts. \*

### Mining District Named Endangered

The weathered remains of the Red Mountain Mining District in southwestern Colorado has been named to the List of Endangered Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The 10,500-acre district, midway between Ouray and Silverton along the San Juan Skyway (formerly known as the Red Mountain Highway), joins two other Colorado sites on the list: Mesa Verde National Park near Cortez, and the colorful Central City/Black Hawk Mining District near Idaho Springs. \*

## MONTANA

### Seven-Up Pete Partners Split

**Canyon Resources** and **Franco-Nevada Mining** have executed a settlement agreement which terminates the Seven-Up Pete Joint Venture Financing Agreement and resolves all outstanding issues between the parties.

The Joint Venture, owned by Canyon, controls three gold deposits, including the McDonald Gold Project, near Lincoln, Mont., and contains 9.9 million ounces of gold and 30 million ounces of silver.

The agreement provides for Franco-Nevada to transfer back to the joint venture all of Franco-Nevada's interests, including its 4% NSR royalty and one-third of any property takings award, and to dismiss its lawsuit against the Joint Venture, in exchange for the return of \$1 million of the \$3 million paid by Franco-Nevada pursuant to the Financing Agreement. \*

### Montana Asks Judge to "86" Lawsuit

Montana has asked a federal judge to throw out **Canyon Resources'** lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a ban on the use of cyanide in open-pit gold mines, and claiming the law cost it tens of millions of dollars the state should have to pay.

The same request was not made for a nearly identical suit filed in a Montana District Court. The dismissal motion said that whenever identical complaints challenging the constitutionality of a state law are lodged in both courts, the law required that the federal case be dismissed.

The "cyanide ban" law (Initiative 137) was passed by the voters in 1998, after Canyon spent \$70 million to develop the McDonald gold property near Lincoln. Canyon is asking for compensation, claiming lack of due process of law. \*

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ABANDONED MINED LANDS

Chair: Llee Chapman, Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.  
775/778-8196

### Deceptions By Anti-Mining Groups

What are they and why are they *our* problem? Depending on which source of information you use, there are approximately 500,000 Abandoned Mined Land sites across the United States.

An abandoned mine site is a site that is adjacent to, or affected by, an abandoned mine. The site may include the mine itself, the tailings impoundment, waste rock piles and any structures that remain. The sites usually have no owner (orphans) due to the original miners leaving the area. The sites are relatively old and would not comply with today's very high mining standards.

These sites from our past are used by our detractors to suggest that today's mining standards are not adequate.

You must understand something very basic to this equation: these very same detractors do not care about the economic well-being of our employees, vendors or communities.

These groups deceive the public by not informing them of the importance of mined commodities, i.e., on a per capita basis, every American citizen uses between 50,000 and 70,000 pounds of metal products each and every year.

This is a deception in the worst sense because it pits users of our lands against each other. We are led to believe that pictures of 50- to 100-year-old operations are representative of today's standards. We are led to believe that we cannot coexist on the lands with our neighbors, tourists and true environmentalists.

I am an environmentalist, and it is this basic reason why I choose to make my living in the mining industry. I get to live in the West, not only visiting but living in our great outdoors, and many of you are like me.

This is a quality-of-life issue for us, the people that work here and live here every day.

The AML deception is worse than that. It is a deception that suggests to our urbanized friends that we are out here damaging our lands and poisoning our water and air.

In short, our detractors **MUST** create a crisis to keep their funding and memberships growing. It is indeed unfortunate that they choose deception as their primary tool.

So, Abandoned Mine Lands are *our* problem. What should we do? How should we do it? When should we do it?

We must start **NOW**, do everything we can **NOW**, and use the best available technology available **NOW**.

Our task is not all bleak. Statistics would show that more than 80% of all known abandoned mine lands pose no safety or environmental risk to society.

One could then assume that these are landscape issues and could be cleaned up easily (given that time and money are not obstacles).

Of the remaining 20%, we must begin to work diligently to erase this legacy from our industry and our lands. You see, our forefathers were not bad guys. They helped settle the West. They settled lands that no one else wanted or cared about for a century. They used the best technology available and operated under the rules of the day.

However, times have changed. Our industry has modernized along with the rest of our society, and with years of growth behind us, today's citizens like the public lands and use them quite extensively for a myriad of activities.

Today we have some funding mechanisms in place to assist in this cleanup and we must use them wisely. Over 60% of all cleanups have been done by private industry, and we must keep going.

In Nevada, several counties have assisted in the cleanups with huge successes (over 60 sites have been eliminated in Elko County and another 50 are being addressed in Nye County).

The industry has come to the plate and completed seven sites. Currently we are working with the Bureau of Land Management, The Nevada Historical Society and the Bat Conservation International to create a mechanism where additional sites can be cleaned up.

The Western Governors' Association have endorsed a Good Samaritan Abandoned or Inactive Mine Waste Reclamation Act as well. As incredible as it may seem, several companies and individuals have taken on liabilities for trying to assist with Old Mine Cleanups.

This deception has the potential to slow down our resolve and momentum to solve this problem (which we did not create).

We must show diligence and see that some protection is enacted that allows private industry, in partnership with governmental agencies, to continue to eliminate these hazards.

I have the honor of having been asked to coordinate the activities of the Abandoned Mine Lands Committee. This memo is a first start at carrying out what was started before me. We need volunteers, ideas, and a funding source to cover the Northwest area.

We will be contacting representatives in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Nevada to get a current inventory and ranking of all AML sites. It will be up to us to work with the state and federal agencies to clean up as many of these sites as possible.

The deception must end. Using negative, 100- year-old pictures to portray an industry of thousands American citizens that provide goods to an ever-growing and demanding society must end. We are not, and cannot continue to be categorized as the enemy. We must accept our role with the abandoned mine sites and suggest to our detractors that their membership funds could be much better spent working with us to clean up our historic problems.

We must insist that our local, state and federal governments be dedicated to find ways for us to succeed in this venture and stop the practice of mandating more and more governmental programs that promote blame and shame, instead of providing solutions.

I would like to suggest that we need a couple of representatives from Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington to work with the state and federal regulators to develop a plan and methodology to get some momentum going in each area.

I will volunteer, with the Executive Director's assistance, to coordinate our activity and cover Nevada as well. An AML meeting has been scheduled during August at our Trustee meeting to discuss this issue. ✱

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## HEALTH & SAFETY

Chair: Dale Avery, NIOSH  
509/484-1610

### Roof Monitoring Safety System for Underground Mines

The Roof Monitoring Safety System (RMSS), introduced in 1997, has been modified to improve durability and simplify the measurement of roof and rib movement underground, and will lead to increased ground stability and safer working conditions.

Human sensory inspections as a method of underground instability often proved to be unreliable. But new monitors, such as RMSS, can confirm roof movement that previously was confirmed by “eyeballing” or “sounding.”

An added safety feature of the RMSS is its capability of locating the measurement station at a safe distance from where the monitor is placed in the roof. The RMSS is equipped with sensor lights that indicate movement; the lights can be adjusted for increments of movement as low as .01 inches.

Movement in rocks within the mine is measured relative to a fixed-point calibration at the monitor housing. The housing contains a potentiometer, roller switch, plastic rack and spur gear. Movements are detected by a transfer of electromotive forces through the rack of the spur gear that is attached to a 5,000-ohm potentiometer.

For additional information, call NIOSH at 412/386-5077. \*

### Work to Block Marks Reappointment by Bruce Rubin

It appears that President Clinton intends to renominate Marc L. Marks to a second six-year term as Commissioner of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

Reappointment to the Commission requires consent of the Senate. As such, *it is important that all NWMA members contact their Senators to voice their strong opposition to this move.*

Commissioner Marks has displayed extraordinary prejudice and arrogance during his five years on the Commission.

His term has been highlighted by several embarrassing events, such as requesting that female lawyers be excluded from a future meeting which he suggested be held at the Playboy Club in Pago Pago.

More importantly, however, Marks refuses to display impartiality in opinions in which he chastised and undermined the mining industry’s commitment to the safety and health of its employees. His repeated references to “regrettable, historic mining tragedies” illustrates his refusal to recognize the dramatic advances that have occurred in mine safety.

Here are the key Senators to contact to voice your opinion against the Marks nomination:

Senators Enzi (R-Wyo.), DeWine (D-Ohio), Hutchinson (R-Ark.) Sessions (R-Ala.), Bingaman (D-N.M.) and Kennedy (D-Mass.)

Also worth contacting are Senate Majority Leader Lott (R-Miss.), Assistant Majority Leader Nickles (R-Okla.), and Policy Committee Chair Craig (R-Idaho). \*

## PUBLIC LANDS

Chair: Bill Prince, Dorsey & Whitney LLP  
801/350-3581

### Time For a 3809 Reality Check?

The Bureau of Land Management recently queried its state directors about estimated implementation costs and to identify any “fatal flaws” in its draft Surface Management Regulations, 43 CFR 3809, dated May 16, 2000.

This information should be good fodder for a FOIA request once this BLM proposal reaches the lawsuit stage. What makes the request somewhat curious is that BLM is making it so late in what has been a multi-year process, and well after they published for comment documents that included estimates of implementation costs.

It is interesting to note that the policy memorandum dated May 18, 2000 states, “The final policy decisions regarding the final form of the regulations have been made.”

The BLM must be congratulated on the efficient manner in which it was able to review and consider the copious comments received from the public. \*

### Senate Moves to Limit Antiquities Act

S. 729, a bill that would restrict a president’s authority to designate national monuments, passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on June 7, 2000. The bill is in response to a seemingly endless stream of monuments being created in the waning days of the Clinton/Gore administration.

The measure has the strong support of Larry E. Craig (R-ID), chair of the Forest and Public Land Management Subcommittee. S. 729 would amend the Antiquities Act of 1906. \*

## PUBLIC OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Chair: Terry Swanger, Swanger, Eriksen & Associates  
509/535-0021

### NWMA Wants You!

**The Northwest Mining Association** is expanding its efforts to work with media outlets across the West. **NWMA** will coordinate its strategy with local mining associations so there are no conflicting messages.

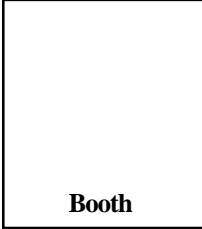
To achieve this goal, we are looking for “a few good people” that have, or would be willing to develop, a solid working relationship with the media in key cities listed below:

Calgary, Anchorage, Phoenix, Tucson, Vancouver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Denver, Washington, DC, Boise, Winnipeg, Missoula, Helena, Billings, Albuquerque, Elko, Reno, Las Vegas, Toronto, Portland, Houston, Dallas, Salt Lake City, Seattle and Casper.

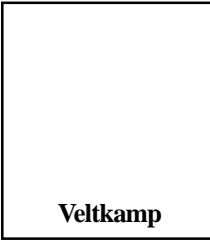
If you want to help counter the misinformation being given to the media about our industry, and are willing to work a few short hours every month for no pay, call **Terry Swanger** at 509/535-0021. \*

## NWMA Members on the Move

**Bill Booth** and **Vicki Veltkamp**, both with **Hecla**, were named on May 5 to new executive positions. Bill, a Life Member of **NWMA**, is now Vice President of Environmental and Government Affairs, while Vicki was promoted to Vice President in charge of Investor and Public Relations.



Booth

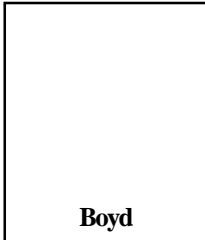


Veltkamp

Also promoted at Hecla was: Ronald W. Clayton, to the position of VP-Metals; John P. Stilwell, to the position of VP/CFO; and Lewis E. Walde, from Assistant Controller to Controller.

**Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation** of Canada and Gold Fields of South Africa have announced they will merge to form a new company called Gold Fields International. The result will be one of the world's largest and strongest gold companies. Approvals by authorities in Canada and South Africa are pending.

**Robert T. Boyd** has been appointed to the position of Director, President and CEO of **Ashton Mining of Canada, Inc.** Robert comes to Ashton from Geographe International where he was a founding principal. He also is a director of the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines. He had been the VP-Exploration for **Homestake Canada Ltd.**



Boyd

A consolidation pact has been made between **Newmont Mining** and **Battle Mountain Gold**. The deal will consolidate the two companies' strategic land positions in Nevada and generate cash savings of \$30 million annually. Canada's Noranda Inc., who owns 28% of BMG, has agreed to the merger.

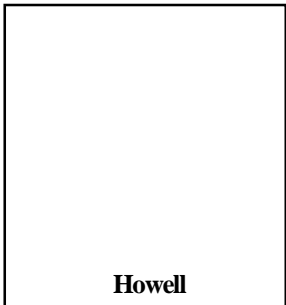
**Bruce Rubin** is the new Publications and Communications Director for **NWMA** in Spokane. Prior to coming to **NWMA**, Bruce spent three years as Managing Editor for *PAY DIRT Magazine* in Bisbee, Ariz. A mining/exploration geologist for 26 years, he spent the mid-1990s as publisher and editor of various weekly newspapers in Colorado, North Dakota and Wyoming. \*

### SME's Howell Passes

**Gary D. Howell**, the Executive Director of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) since 1994, died May 19 at his home in Denver. He was 54.

A geologist for 27 years, Howell held both undergraduate and graduate degrees in geology from Baylor University.

As SME's Executive Director, Howell, an **NWMA** member, succeeded in making the organization more accessible to members, the mining community, and the general public. \*



Howell

## NOW IS THE TIME TO RESERVE YOUR "OFFICE" SPACE AT NWMA'S 106TH ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION

When you exhibit at the **NWMA** show, you are opening an "office" at the most prestigious annual mining event in the **USA**.

Display your products and services, share your knowledge with your clients and potential clients, arrange meetings with old friends and make new contacts, and offer real solutions to real problems.

The anticipated 3,000 attendees who will pass by your "office" will be:

- Explorationists
- Operating Personnel
- Technical Staff
- Investment Professionals
- Mining Executives
- Consultants
- Contractors
- Manufacturers

Your "office" experience in Spokane is designed to produce maximum results in a relaxed yet professional atmosphere.

The professionals attending **NWMA's Annual Meeting and Exposition** come for the sessions, short courses and to see the new innovations in mining on display at your "office."

The 'walk-in' traffic will be brisk at your "office," so bring materials and bring your staff. Be prepared to create interest with knowledgeable technical staff, professional sales people, and executives authorized to close the deal.

**CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO HAVE AN "OFFICE" AT THIS PREMIER EVENT?**

CALL PAT BRONCHETTI AT  
509/624-1158  
FAX: 509/623-1241

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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**31st International Geological Congress**, August 6-17, 2000, RIOCENTRO Convention Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For information contact the Secretariat at +55 (21) 295-5847 or [www.31igc.org](http://www.31igc.org).

**Fundamentals and Applications of Fire Assay Short Course**, Aug. 21-25, Butte, Mont. Industrial tour sites include Stillwater Mine, ASARCO Smelter, Golden Sunlight Mine and Montana Tunnels Mine. Call (406) 496-4794. Email address is [camp@mtech.edu](mailto:camp@mtech.edu).

**The National Mining Association's Mining Lawyer's Conference**, Sept. 21-23, at the Santa Fe Hilton, Santa Fe, N.M. Call Jennifer El Marji at (202) 463-2637 for details.

**AML Reclamation 2000-National Association of AML Programs Annual Conference**, Sept. 24-27, 2000, Sheraton Steamboat Springs, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. For information call (303) 866-4097 or visit [www.onenet.net/~naamlp/conf2000.htm](http://www.onenet.net/~naamlp/conf2000.htm).

**Copper Hydromet Roundtable 2000**, Sept. 26-29, 2000, Westin Paloma Resort, Tucson, Arizona. For information call (303) 526-1626 or visit [www.randol.com](http://www.randol.com).

**MINExpo International 2000**, Oct. 9-12, 2000, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Kendy Allen with National Mining Association at (202) 463-2611 or visit [www.minexpo.com](http://www.minexpo.com) for details.

**Blast Design and Assessment for Surface and Underground Mines and Quarries**, Oct. 23-25, Reno, Nev. Sponsored by Golder Associates. Call Graeme Major at (775) 828-9604 for details. Email [gmajor@golder.com](mailto:gmajor@golder.com).

**Randol at Vancouver-Global Mining Opportunities**, Nov. 13-15, 2000, Robson Square Conference Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia. For information call (303) 526-1626 or visit their website at [www.randol.com](http://www.randol.com).

**Manitoba Mining & Minerals Convention 2000: Manitoba - Your Rock-Solid Advantage**, Nov. 16-18 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. Call (800) 223-5215 for details. Email [convention@em.gov.mb.ca](mailto:convention@em.gov.mb.ca).

**Conference on Mercury in Mining**, Nov. 28-30 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco. Sponsored by EPA's Office of Research and Development. Call Doug Grosse at (513) 569-7844 for more information.

**NWMA Annual Meeting & Exposition, Dec. 4-8, 2000, Spokane Convention and Agricultural Trade Centers, Spokane, Washington.** Contact NWMA at (509) 624-1158 or visit [www.nwma.org](http://www.nwma.org) for details.

**The Tailings and Mine Waste '01 Conference**, Jan. 15-18, 2001, at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. Call (970) 491-6081 for more information. Email address is [lhinshaw@enr.colostate.edu](mailto:lhinshaw@enr.colostate.edu).

**International Society of Explosives Engineers 27th Annual Conference**, Jan. 28-31, 2001, Orlando, Fla. Call (440) 349-4004. Email: [davis@isee.org](mailto:davis@isee.org). Deadline for papers is Oct. 15.

**International Symposium on Cyanide: Social, Industrial and Economic Aspects**, Feb. 11-15, 2001, New Orleans. For details call Courtney Young at (406) 496-4158, Larry Tidwell at (406) 496-4208 or Corby Anderson at (406) 496-4794. Deadline for papers is Sept. 1.

**Mexico Mining 2001**, Feb. 14-16, 2001, Westin Regina Resort, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. For additional information call (303) 526-1626 or visit the conference website at [www.randol.com](http://www.randol.com). \*





# Photographic Model Release

In consideration of my engagement as a photographer's model, and for valuable consideration herein acknowledged as received, I hereby grant the photographer, **Bruce Rubin**, permission to copyright, use and re-use, publish and re-publish photographic images of myself, in whole or in part, from time to time, for artistic illustration, display, exhibition and sale purposes only.

However, if any images show the likeness of my face, the photographer **must** have permission from myself to display those images anywhere.

I also affirm that I have passed my eighteenth birthday, or that I am an emancipated woman under the age of eighteen.

Name of model (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of model \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of photographer, Bruce Rubin \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_