

99ER'S NUGGET NEWS

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club

April 2009

Editor: Milah Gano

Quote of the Month: "A man's rootage is more important than his leafage."

Woodrow Wilson

IN THIS ISSUE:

Next Meeting: April 11
In Columbia Falls

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- ◆ Ad for Detectors

GOLD PRICES:

As of April 2, 2009

GOLD—\$905.70/OZ.

SILVER—\$12.98/OZ.

Our Website:

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

Greetings,

Here we are in April and every day it snows like January. Next month, May is our Spring Kick-off meeting at Columbia Heights. Don't forget to bring your metal detectors, gold pans, your pot luck dish and lots of friends. Be prepared for a good time and good food.

May 2nd on Saturday from 10 o 7:30 p.m. and May 3rd, Sunday from 10 to 4:00 p.m. we are sponsoring the gold show at the Red Lion Inn, Kalispell Mall. The admission is free. This is a total Club sponsored program with vendors, demonstrations, door prizes, and free seminars from guest speakers. There will be a prize for the best dressed miner costume. So dress up and show up, we'll see you there. A lot of work has gone into the preparation of this event. A big thank you goes to the committee and all those who have worked so hard and given so much time to the club to organize this extravaganza. We appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for our club. Lets get behind them and help at the show or in any way that we can, and I am sure they will appreciate our support.

Milah Gano

Email — mallard_g@hotmail.com

Phone: 406-892-1526

RAFFLE TICKET
Northwest Montana Gold Prospector Club
\$1.00 each or \$6.00 for \$5.00
PRIZES: *1/4 oz Gold Nugget, 10 oz Silver Bar,
Set of Bunker Hill Silver Rounds,
and a gift certificate ticket for a massage.*

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Phone _____

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NORTHWEST MONTANA GOLD PROSPECTORS
PRESENTS
GOLD, GEM, MINERAL
and
RECREATIONAL SHOW

May 2 & 3, 2009

RED LION INN AT THE KALISPELL CENTER MALL

SATURDAY 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

***FREE Admission!**

***FREE Gold to the first 50 people each day!**

***Prizes for the "best miner costume"!**

***FREE Seminars!**

***Demonstrations *Vendors *Kids Activities *Pan for Gold**
***Raffle Prizes *Door Prizes *Recreational Equipment**

SATURDAY:

Seminars throughout the day:

- 10:00- Show opens to the public, Meet the Vendors, View the Merchandise and Displays
- 11:00- A presentation by Braxton Walborn and Clarence Taber on how to file a mining claim with samples, forms and timeline charts
- 12:00- Costume Contest Judging. Purchase a lunch from the Red Lion or go out for a bite.
- 1:00- A presentation by Bob Cronholm representing the state of Montana Department of Environmental Quality. ...the reasons or benefits of having a Small Miners Exclusion..... discussion on meeting requirements and compliance.
- 2:00- Planning a successful "Plan of Operation" (POO) required by U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), State Land or Private.
- 3:00- How to make your POO efficient.... Discussion of clearing, conserving topsoil, wet or dry operation, water requirements, equipment size, trommels, sluice boxes, reclamation and bond calculation.
- 4:00- A presentation by Robin McCulloch from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.. Where did the Gold, Silver, Minerals and Precious Stones come from?
- 5:00- A presentation by Ted Antinolli from the Missoula Chapter... The Political Picture for mining in Montana and the U.S.
- 6:00- A presentation by Rivette Minerals on the proposed project at Rock Creek.

SUNDAY:

- *Presentation on Metal Detecting
- *Jewelry Demos...Silver Smithing, Wire Wrap
- *Lapidary Demos... Cutting, Grinding, Polishing, Faceting
- * Rock Identification

For information call
406-892-4826 406-892-1810 406-253-9540
NWMGP, Box 3242, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Agency releases study

(Taken from Daily Interlake)

Draft examines mine proposal in the Cabinets

HELENA (AP) - the U.S. Forest Service has released a draft environmental impact statement for a proposal to mine copper and silver beneath north-western Montana's Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, a project that would occupy a slice of prime grizzly bear country and has critics forming a new group.

Developer Mines Management Inc. is "encouraged" by the impact statement released this week, said Eric Klepfer, who works on permit applications for the Spokane company.

A member of the Rock Creek Alliance, which sees environmental hazard in both Montanore and another project proposed nearby, the Rock Creek mine, said the Montanore critics are separating into a new group called Save Our Cabinets to wage their opposition more effectively.

The Forest Service's preferred alternative would put the Montanore mill, for processing ore, about two miles from where Mines Management proposed building it and would change the point of access to the ore, measures the agency finds would reduce impact on grizzly bears. The Forest Service also altered plans for a mine waste impoundment.

Opponents of the project will fight development doing "whatever is necessary" through regulatory channels and the courts, Tom Costello said Friday from Trout Creek, in the shadow of the Cabinet Mountains.

The environmental issues are relatively minor and can be addressed, said Mines Management CEO Glenn Dobbs, adding the company wants to fund translocation of grizzly bears to strengthen the population in the Cabinets.

The Forest Service is taking public comment on the draft environmental impact statement through May 28 and then will prepare a final version, which will be followed by the Kootenai National Forest supervisor's decision on the project.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

(Taken from ICMJ's Prospecting and Mining Journal/March 2009)

Senate Bill 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, passes the Senate on January 15, 2009, and Senator Harry Reid (D-Nevada) is solely to blame.

Reid sold out the mining industry and sided with environmental organizations like the Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy. S. 22, if passed by the House of Representatives, will place millions of additional acres off-limits to mining and other public lands uses. National Parks will be expanded, new parks and Heritage Areas will be created, new Wild and Scenic rivers will be established and wilderness studies will begin in areas that are currently open to public land users. Worse yet, the bill would establish a 26-million-acre National Landscape Conservation System. It states, "...in order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations, there is established in the Bureau of Land Management the National Landscape Conservation System."

S 22 contains 161 separate measures that had been struggling on their own, unable to garner enough support to pass on their own merits, so they were combined into one bill. Senator Harry Reid then met with several Republican Senators to negotiate a compromise and avoid a filibuster.

At a time when the federal government is racking up debt, the Congressional Budget Office stated, "CBO has not prepared a complete cost estimate for the provisions of S. 22 that would be subject to appropriation." However, Senator Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) stated his office has evaluated the costs and estimates that S. 22 will cost \$10 billion just to implement.

After the bill passes the House, which is expected, the Senate will convene again as the two groups attempt to reconcile differences. In the meantime, it is extremely important that you contact your Senator to register your opinion. "If this bill is successful, you will not get my support or my vote when it comes time for your re-election" would be a good way to register your opinion.

S. 22 has direct ties to Rhall's anti-mining bill, which states that all lands under consideration for the National Landscape Conservation System will be closed to mineral entry.

Minutes from NWMGP Meeting March 14, 2009

- ◆ Braxton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ There were 24 people present.
- ◆ The minutes and the treasures report were read and approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS

- ◆ Allen had the window decals available for sale on his table (they are really nice).
- ◆ We talked about the letter the club wanted to put in the newsletter for someone to send into the senators and the congressmen. Rick Lance let us know that it can't be anything that resembles a form letter or they go to a room for investigation. Rick's suggestion was that we all sign a piece of paper with our address so that he can just fax the letter with our concerns and our names to the right people.
- ◆ Herb gave the club a update on the mining show. The dates have changed, they are MAY 2nd and 3rd. The Red Lion has changed their charges, it will be \$500.00 if we have a dinner, and \$750.00 if we don't have a dinner. This was talked about and it was voted on that there would be no dinner and the club would pay the difference. Allen also gave Herb some other ideas on who to contact about the advertising. The motel will offer a discount to the people that need to stay at the motel. Venders can set up at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The show will start at 10:00 a.m. Herb asked for volunteers for painting signs. There were a few people that held up there hands. Thank you. Braxton and Clearance are working on the seminars and that is going well. These will all take place on Saturday, and then on Sunday there will be demonstrations on different things like how to pan, how to metal detect, how to cut stones, and other things. It is going to be a lot of fun and hard work, we need all the volunteers we can get. We will keep the club updated.
- ◆ The spring kick off is still the same weekend. So with the gold show that first weekend we may ask Jill if there is anything we can do to help her.
- ◆ Braxton did put in a call in to Lynn at the Forest Service to ask about the date of our first outing up on the claim. Last year she said no. So lets not get our hopes up.
This means that the first outing will be June 20, 2009 which is still Fathers Day weekend. Braxton will let us know more when he knows more.
- ◆ Gary Henry was able to get 18 silver rounds for a good price because we ordered the silver bar.
- ◆ We also talked about the newsletter and it being online. Don let us know this is not going to be just saying it and its done. Kathie, Don and Milah will have to get together and work this out. There was some talk about how it would be better to just email them and have it posted on the web site because we can expect every one to just go to the web sit. Kathie, Don and Milah will let us know what they find when they get it worked out.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ The club is down to its last bag of Top O' Deep dirt. Do we want to purchase more? The club voted yes and we purchased these from Ralph.
- ◆ Trent told us about 2 articles that are in the Mining Journal. These really are must reads. They talk about some of the bills that are out there and are before our legislators. If you can get hold of one of the current issues please read and let your voice be heard. I have learned that all of our legislators have web sites that are pretty easy to get on and they do reply. Lets all email away.
- ◆ Allen let us know that there is a gold show in Post Falls, ID on the 28th and 29th of March and then one in Cashmere, WA on the 22nd and 23rd of April.
- ◆ Braxton adjourned the meeting

**The Gold Show in Cashmere is April 25 and 26 at the Chelan County Fairgrounds, according to the Mining Journal.*

Raffle Winners for March to follow:

ITEM	DONATOR	WINNER
Cup	Bob Listin	Sandy Randal
Lighter	Robinsons	Gary W.
Cards	Wayne H.	Jeremy
Light	2 Bits Prospecting	John Hagall
Top O' Deep	Club	Gary W.
Silver Round	Club	Gary W.
Leather Pouch w/vial	Wayne	H. Larry
Window Decal	Allen C.	Herb Robinson

Gold Pans, Classifiers, Sluice Boxes, Gold Scales, Metal Detectors for all types of detecting. 5 brands to choose from. If I don't have it I can get it.

BIG SKY METAL DETECTORS

RONAN, MT

406-253-1678

www.bigskydetectors.com

Understanding grains, grams and dwt (penny weight) and Troy Oz.

WEIGHT CONVERSIONS

USING TROY OZ

GRAMS	OZT	GRAINS	DWT
31.1	1.00	480	20

USING IMPERIAL OZ

GRAMS	OZ	GRAINS	DWT
28.3	1.00	437.04	18.21

CALCULATIONS

TO CONVERT	TO	MULTIPLY BY
GRAMS	GRAINS	15.4324
GRAINS	GRAMS	.0648
GRAMS	OZ (AVDP)	.0353
GRAMS	OZT	.03215

IN OTHER WORDS

There are 31.1 grams in an ounce, or 480 grains, or 20 dwt
Which means that there are 15.4324 grains in 1 gram

HOW THIS HELPS YOU

When you see a nugget on Ebay, that weighs 6.4 grains, and the bid is at \$13.25, you WANT to be able to figure out how much per oz., you would be paying, its simple.

Take the price of the gold \$13.25 and divide it by the weight (in grains) = \$2.07 per grain

Now multiply \$2.07 x 480 (grains in an ounce) = \$993.75 (per OZT)

Here are a few "highlights" from H.R. 699:

Casual use would be redefined to allow only those activities that do not cause "any disturbance of public lands and resources." The collection of samples, use of gold pans and non-motorized sluices would be the only activities allowed without a Notice or Plan. Taking a vehicle off-road would also require a Notice or Plan. Any extraction of minerals for sale or use would require a Notice or Plan.

H.R. 699 would be retroactive. Existing mining that is not already operating under a Notice of Plan would require proof of a valuable discovery to retain a mining claim, and those operating under a Notice or Plan would have ten years to bring their operation under compliance with the new regulations.

The patenting of mining claims, which has been suspended by yearly legislation since 1994, would be permanently discontinued.

The federal government would be entitled to an 8 percent gross royalty for all locatable minerals for any new mining operation. Even if the miner is unable to make a reasonable profit at current commodity prices, he would have to give 8 percent to the federal government. Existing operations at the time the bill is passed would be subject to a 4 percent gross royalty, and any federal lands added to the operation after enactment of the bill would be subject to the 8 percent royalty.

The reporting requirements are absurd. Anyone transporting a locatable mineral, concentrate or product derived from a locatable mineral shall carry documentation declaring the amount, origin and intended destination. Miners shall create and maintain reports relating to the quantity, quality, composition, volume, weight and assay value of all minerals extracted from a mining claim. Failure to produce these reports when requested by any officer or employee designated by the federal government may result in involuntary forfeiture of the mining claim.

The federal government would be authorized to conduct audits of all claim holders, operators, transporters, purchasers, processors, or other persons directly or indirectly involved in the production or sales of locatable minerals.

Mining claim maintenance fees would be raised to \$150 per claim, and would be adjusted at least every five years based on the Consumer Price Index. The location fee would be increased to \$50 per claim.

Tens of millions of acres would be added to existing areas that are already off-limits to mining, including Wilderness Study Areas; areas of critical environmental concern; areas designated for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; areas designated for potential addition, or eligible for inclusion; and any area identified in the set of inventoried roadless maps contained in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000.

Any State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian Tribe could petition the Secretary of Interior to withdraw areas based on drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat, cultural or historic resources, scenic vistas or other similar values. Indian tribes could also petition for the withdrawal of areas for religious or cultural value.

The bill would give the Secretary the authority to deny any operation that may cause undue degradation.

To get an approved Plan, the operator would have to be able to show that no treatment of discharged water will be necessary 10 years after mine closure, and any Plan could be changed or halted if additional information about scientific, cultural or biological resources becomes available.

The miner would have to submit an application to the federal government to request any cessation of operations greater than 180 days. A miner would have to obtain consent of the federal government to transfer ownership of any operation, and the transfer would require a fee to be paid to cover the government's administrative costs.

Financial assurance (bonding) would be required for any operation—presumably this would also apply to suction gold dredging—and the amount would be evaluated and adjusted every 3 years. Where water treatment is necessary, financial assurance funds would not be released until there is 5 full years where treatment is not necessary.

States would be allowed to implement regulations that exceed the regulations in this bill.

The federal government would be allowed to collect administrative fees to cover expenses incurred while regulating mining operations.

Mining operations would be subjected to a minimum of one complete inspection per year.

The bill would provide environmental lawyers an unending source of income. Any citizen would be allowed to file a civil lawsuit against the miner or the federal government to force compliance with the mining laws after giving sixty days written notice. The court would be allowed to award the costs of litigation, including attorney and witness fees, as the court deems appropriate.

*THIS ARTICLE WAS TAKEN FROM THE ICMJ'S PROSPECTING AND MINING JOURNAL/MARCH 2009. I could not print the whole article in its entirety, but it warrants a good look. If you want to read the rest of the article, purchase the Journal or borrow one. This sounds serious. The rights of all miners, including us, are at stake here.

- Milah Gano

"CODE OF ETHICS"

Any violation reflects on all of us!

1. Know and obey the laws, rules and regulations pertaining to mining.
2. Respect private property and mining claims of others. *Get Permission First!*
3. Conduct your mining activity in a manner that will cause minimal disturbance to others.
4. Plan your operation prior to proceeding to ensure minimal environmental impact and erosion.
5. Restore the area to its original or better condition when finished with your operation.
6. NEVER disrupt or damage wildlife breeding sites, even if it's legal to do so.
7. Remove all trash and debris found in and around all streams, rivers, and campsites.
8. Keep your equipment maintained and in peak operating condition.
9. Use extreme caution when using petroleum products around waterways.
10. MINE SAFELY! No amount of gold is worth your life or the life of others.

REGULAR CLUB MEETING

***April 11
Saturday
1:00 P.M.***

**Columbia Falls
Community Center
On
Nucleus Ave.
Columbia Falls, MT**

NWMTGoldprospectors.com

If you know of a club member who is ill or needs help,
Prayer or encouragement, call our "Sunshine Lady",
Evelyn Grant at 406-892-3298

President	Braxton Walborn
Vice-President	Herb Robinson
Secretary	Vicki Walborn
Treasurer	Gary Henry

406-756-3711
406-892-4826
406-756-3711
406-257-0362

<http://www.NWMTGoldprospectors.com>

Northwest Montana Gold Prospectors Club
P.O. Box 3242
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

