



Western Mining Alliance

Voice of the Independent Miner

August 2015

**Obama Administration Joins Fight Against Rinehart!
Opening Briefs Filed for January Trial
Miners Rally 20 September in Nevada City**

OPENING ARGUMENTS FILED

"The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions that I wish it to always be kept alive."
Thomas Jefferson

Many people who get the newsletter just want to know what's going on in the legal fight. A lot. The Obama Administration just filed a brief in the Rinehart case supporting the State's position to ban dredging forever. No surprise there.

We spent the weekend working with the attorney preparing the final briefings for submission. Our final court documents were due today, August 31st. We are impressed with our attorney, James Buchal who worked the entire weekend and well past midnight every night to get the briefings done.

We couldn't mention the attorney's work without expressing our thanks to Dave McCracken and the New 49ers for allowing us to share their attorney and legal costs. This reduces both our costs and the New 49er costs, and ultimately means less money we have to try and raise.

Due today is our opening argument on the challenge to the environmental impact report and the remaining arguments in the other cases, as well as Keith Walker's opening argument.

Virtually the entire month of August was spent in writing and editing these briefings and they represent the future of mining in California.

If you want a copy of the final briefing you can email us, and we'll send you a copy. It represents almost three years of work researching and reading. We had to read every CEQA appeals case published; virtually every single report referenced in the EIR, and we had to go through the administrative record which consisted of over 100,000 pages of documents.

To call this case complex would be an understatement, but you must realize we're up against what we consider a giant fraud. We challenge, in our briefing, the process they used to ban dredging. We believe we've laid out a

strong case for why the EIR was a fraud and was designed to reach an outcome based on political pressure, not based on science.

However, it's likely we just racked up another \$10,000 in legal bills over the past few weeks, and we need some support. Our support comes entirely from you.

There's only a handful of us doing this research and writing these briefings, and we're working with a single lawyer, but the legal bills add up quickly.

The good news is we have an end date. January 20th will be the hearing and we'll win or lose. If we win the State has said they'll appeal the ruling, if we lose, then we collectively have a decision to make on how to proceed.

This legal fight has been expensive, and we're still short on paying our previous legal bills. Thanks to everyone who has contributed or purchased something to help us fund the fight. Not one dollar goes to anything but paying legal expenses.

All the cases will be heard on the 20th of January, and all the decisions will follow shortly after that.

What happens with small scale mining in California hangs in the balance with how well we've presented our arguments, and how well we researched our position.

Even if you're not a dredger this court case will have significant impacts on your future mining. If we allow the State to arbitrarily determine what is a major environmental effect, without regards to the truth or science, then this same approach will be used by the environmentalists to continue to shut down mining.

If you appreciate what we're doing, we'd sure appreciate some help paying our legal bills.

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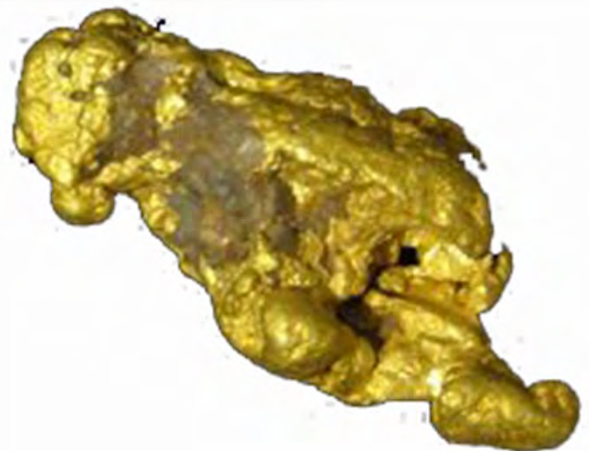
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Support Our Legal Fight

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Aug 31

Jan 20

142 days until trial

- The fight against SB 637 is about over, we're looking at more legal expenses
- The preparation of the CEQA case was very expensive, defeating the EIR is critical to preserving small scale mining across the West
- We still have work to do prior to the hearings on 20 January, we'll have to respond to the State's briefings and prepare more supporting declarations

Help us Financially

Tired of hearing requests for financial support? Yeah, us too. We've worked for three years now, without pay, doing the research, writing the reports and legal briefings to win back suction dredging. We've sold off our personal claims; foregone vacations and missed work to attend hearings. Yeah, we'll be glad when it's over, but right now we need some cash to pay the lawyer, and to be honest, the lawyer costs are worth it. We've got a great lawyer and we've prepared the best arguments we possibly could. The issue is in the hands of the judge now.

\$100 membership – you'll get the 2015 Claims Report which will provide you the full listing for Northern California mining claims which are pending closure by BLM. This report gives you advanced information over the general public and a significant advantage in finding valuable lode and place claims which may be available for new filings. Includes detailed information on the creek, river or geographic feature the claim is located on.

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2015 Claims Report Update

Interested in a custom report? We can find just about any information you want, and present it to you the way you want. For example – want to know every claim owner on a particular river? Want to know which township in a state has the most mining claims? Want to know which mining companies own claims where, or want to be alerted when mining claims in a certain area are closed? Email us and let us know what you’re looking for.



We’ve had some people already asking about the 2015 Claims Report, so here’s the update:

This year we’ll have closed claims coverage for

-  Arizona
-  California (Northern and Southern)
-  Idaho
-  Nevada
-  Oregon
-  Washington

We completed the geographic information for California, for the entire state, so we’ll be able to provide you the detailed river or geographic area, listings for every closed claim. We’ll be working on completing an additional state prior to the release of the report, but at this point it may be either Oregon or Arizona.

We’ve now updated our database to include the above states, and we’re tracking nearly 250,000 mining claims across the West.

It’s possible we’ll publish an “Advanced Report” but we’re not sure if we’ll offer it for sale or not. It takes an enormous amount of time to do this and we haven’t decided yet what we’ll do. If we publish an Advanced Report it could be available as soon as 1 November. The way we track mining claims provides us with advanced notice of claims which will likely be closed prior to BLM posting it as closed. This gives you a significant advantage over everyone else in locating some very valuable claims. If you’re interested in the Advanced Report please let us know, it may help us in making a decision whether we should publish and sell the report. Last year we shipped out about 200 Advanced Reports, but to be honest we probably lost money on it, so we would need to know the demand so we can make printing arrangements.

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Micro Sluice 1

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Miners Rally

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20th 2015

5:00 - 8:00 PM

**At the Stone House Restaurant
107 Sacramento Street
Nevada City, California**



The end of small scale mining?

Guest Speakers will present:

- (1) The San Bernardino legal cases
- (2) The Rinehart case
- (3) The appeal of the injunction
- (4) Senate Bill 637 and what it means for miners
- (5) Efforts to push back against over-regulation

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SAMPLING OF RIVERS IN CALIFORNIA LISTED AS “IMPAIRED”

- Klamath River
- Mad River
- Russian River
- Trinity River
- American River, North Fork
- Lower American River
- Bear Creek
- Bear River
- Butte Creek
- Calaveras River
- Cosumnes River
- Deer Creek
- Feather River Middle Fork
- Feather River North Fork
- Feather River South Fork
- Horse Creek
- Humbug Creek
- Kanaka Creek
- Little Grizzly Creek
- Merced River
- Mokelumne River
- Pit River
- Sacramento River
- San Joaquin River
- Tuolumne River
- Willow Creek
- Yuba River North Fork
- Yuba River Middle Fork
- Yuba River South Fork



Do you own a mining claim on a river listed as “impaired” by the state of California? Do you know? Did you know over 1,000 rivers in California are listed as EPA 303(d) impaired water bodies. Under SB 637 the value of your mining claim on one of these rivers just became worthless. A short list of the more significant rivers is provided above.

SB 637, the new anti-dredging bill in California has passed its final hurdle towards becoming law. All that’s left is for the Governor to sign it. The intent of this bill is to regulate out of existence the small miner, not just the dredgers, but anyone who uses any sort of equipment. As we discussed in depth last month this bill will regulate your use of sluice boxes, high bankers, anything with a motor and even shovels and gold pans if you are using your gold pan with water. Any activity that involves water will fall under regulation of the Water Board.

This bill will impose a second permitting requirement. You must have your Water Board permit prior to applying for your dredge permit. The Water Board permit will be specific to a precise location – not statewide.

But...will there be anyone left to fight this? We’re deeply in debt with legal bills as are the other organizations in this fight. If we’re to keep up the fight we’re going to need some significant help.

LEGAL UPDATE

143 Days To Court Hearing

The schedule from now until the trial date is:

- 31 August – Opening briefs due by the miners on the CEQA case and the preemption case, as well as Keith Walker’s challenge to the constitutionality of the AB 120 and SB 1018.
- 17 November – The

State’s response to our opening brief is due.

- 22 December – The miners reply to the State’s response is due
- 20 January 2016 – Trial date

We completed and submitted our opening briefing on 31 August.

The appeal of the denial of injunction has been submitted to the Appeals Court.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FILES BRIEF AGAINST RINEHART

On 31 August, as expected, the Obama Administration solicitor general filed a brief attacking the Appeals Court ruling in the Rinehart case and said, on behalf of the United States of America they approve of both the California dredging ban and the prosecution of Brandon Rinehart as a criminal.

We expected no less out of this briefing. It appears to us it was written by someone on the California legal team and provided to the United States attorney.

In the briefing the United States makes the same argument as California does – there are other ways to mine a river placer claim therefore the California dredging ban isn’t preempted by federal law even if it extends forever.

We will have an opportunity to respond to the briefing, and we could sure use the best and brightest of the mining community legal minds to assist. Once again this response will be written by attorney James Buchal.

Brandon is really low on funds and we need to support this case. This is the most important mining case since the Sawyer decision. The future of all mining pivots on this case.

Please spread the word to everyone you know – we all need to get behind this case. It’s no surprise the Obama Administration took this position, after all they’ll need the votes to get the next socialist elected to the White House.

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Shovels

“Shovels.” I said.

“What?” Bob looked at me sideways, nursing his third beer.

“I said shovels.” I do my best thinking with a little help from beer, and Murphy’s Tavern was a great place to do some thinking.

My mining partner, and friend doesn’t do as much deep thinking as I do, so he’s not as quick on the uptake.

“The way I got it figured is shovels can be pretty destructive in the hands of the untrained miner and I’m sure there’s a report somewhere which would support them banning shovels.”

“That’s pretty stupid.” Bob replied.

“No really, think about it. What can you do with a shovel?” I said.

“Dig?” he replied.

“Exactly, and what happens when you dig?”

“You create holes.” Bob said.

“Do you see the problem now?” I asked.

“You’re drunk.”

“No, I’m doing deep thinking and trying to anticipate the next moves of the environmental groups. You see that’s the whole problem with you, you don’t do enough deep thinking trying to anticipate the next moves of the environmentalist.” I told him.

“My next move is another beer.” Bob said.

“Well, we just had an environmental study which said using a lawnmower engine in a remote canyon and moving rocks on the bottom of the river creates

significant environmental damage. Just think what we could do with a shovel.”

“We could get a sore back, and recover about ten dollars of gold a day.” Bob replied, “Remember the ‘49ers used shovels and what happened to them.”

“They died?” I replied.

“They died broke.”

I’ve often thought we miners don’t do enough strategizing. We keep reacting to what the environmentalists do and Bob was a perfect example. He just wanted to get back out to the river and start a dredge engine.

Now me, I’m always strategizing, trying to figure what they’ll do next. They’re a crafty lot and they keep surprising me.

You see I missed the whole dredging ban thing. Who would have thought? I just spent my days listening to the hum of a Honda engine never considering the environmental damage the rocks I was rolling around could do.

I was pretty simple minded back in those days. In my simple way of thinking the river moved a lot more rocks than I did so the few rocks I shuffled around seemed to me pretty insignificant, but after reading the report which led to the dredging ban I realized just what major environmental damage I was doing and I swore off dredging altogether.

Once I read I was a threat to the environment I decided to try other less destructive forms of mining.

“Like what?” Bob said.

“I was talking to myself.” I told him.

Shovels

“You’ve been doing that a lot lately.”

“Talking to myself?” I replied.

“No, thinking. You can think too much you know. Take me for example, I’m thinking about getting another beer and that’s about the end of it.” Bob said

Now I’ve never been one to put more stock in thinking, than doing and I’ve never seen those folks who get paid to think actually produce anything, but Bob sometimes doesn’t get it.

Like the time we needed to cross the Yuba at high water with a 5”. I told him I’d take a rope, swim it across, then set up a pulley system and pull the dredge across, then we’d be able to use the rope to control the dredge for another couple of hundred yards downstream.

Bob just thought we’d wait until the water went down. That’s just the wrong kind of thinking. We had a perfectly good challenge right there in front of us and he wanted to take the easy way out. So where’s the story in that I asked him. If there is no flipped dredge, no near death experience or no future article about dredging a river at flood stage.

So a couple days later we came back and sure enough the river had dropped enough to just wade it across.

“But back to the shovels.” I said.

“Again?”

“Look, here’s the problem, if I was destroying the environment with my 5” dredge what will I do if I dig into the bank?” I asked.

“You can’t dig into the bank.” He replied.

“Why not? The storms dig into the bank.” I said.

“Storms are an act of god, we’re just miners.” Bob replied.

“You’ve seen the Yuba at flood stage, what if we just dig into the bank a little bit and the next flood will erase what we did.” I asked.

“That’s the problem with your thinking.” Bob said. “See you’re thinking about what we do compared to what nature does, and that’s the wrong way to think about it.”

“So what’s the right way?” I asked.

“The way they tell you to think. See, you make things hard on yourself, you’re always trying to out think things. For example, you think mining is about getting gold.”

“It’s not?”

“Of course not,” Bob said, “It’s about a no-impact outdoor recreational experience.”

“Wouldn’t that interfere with trying to get gold, the whole no-impact thing?” I replied.

“See,” Bob replied, “You’re stuck in the 1980s. The world has changed around you, but you refuse to adapt. You’re like the dinosaurs looking at the sky when the meteor hit and wondering why things can’t just stay the way they are. The meteors coming whether you think about it or not. Buy me another beer.”

“OK, so let’s say I don’t dig into a bank, and I don’t dig anywhere around a river, then I’m free to use a shovel?”

“Water.” He said.

“What about it.”

Shovels

“Are you going to need water?” Bob asked.

“How long have you been mining? Of course you use water, what do you think runs the sluice box?”

“There’s the problem. You’re going to need a permit.”

“A permit to use a shovel?” I asked.

“No, you need a permit to run the sluice box.”

“But, the sluice box doesn’t have an engine, or hose, or create any noise, or scare birds, frog, slugs or bugs, why would I need a permit.”

“It’s the State’s water.” Bob replied.

“I thought it was my water, it’s on my mining claim.”

“Are you going to drink the rest of that beer, it’s getting warm.” Bob asked, “See you’re thinking again. That’s a way of thinking from the 1800’s when the miners owned the water.”

“What was wrong with that?” I asked.

“The water belongs to the people.”

“I thought you said it belonged to the State.” I said.

“The State is the people and the people are the State.” He said.

“You mean like the Soviet Union?”

“Ah, you’re finally getting it.” Bob said.

“I don’t think so,” I replied, “I thought if a person bought some property he could do with it what he wanted, so if I have a mining claim I can use that water.”

“You might be able to use it, but you can’t put dirt in it.” Bob replied.

“How do I run a sluice box if I can’t put dirt in the water.”

“You apply for a permit from the Water Board.” He said.

“A permit to run a sluice?”

“It will also include your permit to operate a shovel, but I think you’ll have to attend training and be certified by a licensed instructor.”

“Wouldn’t it be easier to just go back to dredging?” I asked.

“Can’t,” Bob replied, “Dredging has been found to destroy the environment because dredges move rocks and make the water dirty.”

“But those things go away.”

“You’re not following the whole whatever nature does is good, but whatever miners do is bad thing are you?” Bob said.

“I guess I’m a little slow on the uptake.”

“What if you wanted to dig a hole in your yard?” I asked.

“Will you be planting a tree?”

“Maybe, but maybe I’ll be digging for gold.”

“If your planting a tree, then that’s OK because you’re reducing your carbon footprint, but if you’re digging for gold you’ll need a permit.”

“What if I started an environmental group and we used dredges to ‘remediate’ mercury, not mine gold.”

“Now you’re thinking.” Bob said with a smile.



Visit our online store www.sierrarivers.com

We've still got some really nice Yuba River nuggets for sale, and we recently added two really cheap mining claims. There are still copies of the 2014 Claims Report available for both Northern and Southern California. Very few people ordered the Southern California version, so if you're looking for a great lode claim, now's your chance.



What You Can Do To Help

Want to Help But Don't Know What to Do?

OK, first off we've got about ten bucks in the bank account, so that ought to give you a clue what kind of help we need. We've got an estimate from the lawyer of how much money it will cost to complete this trial phase. Write to us if you want to know, but it's more money than we've got so we're relying 100% on your support to get to trial (with a lawyer).

- Join the WMA and support what we're doing both our lobbying and our legal efforts
- Use the IRS Form attached to the newsletter to file a complaint against the Sierra Fund for excessive anti-mining lobbying
- Write the California Secretary of State and request they evaluate whether MS Martin of the Sierra Fund is engaged in prohibited activities under the California Political Reform Act
- Attend our Miner's Rally in Nevada City on September 20th and join in the conversation on what the future holds and how we should fight it
- Visit the office of The Sierra Fund and speak with MS Martin about her efforts to ban mining
- Support the Rinehart case by providing financial donations

STOP THE SIERRA FUND

Federal and State laws Provide Important Safeguards Against Prohibited Lobbying by “Non-Profits”

Both the Internal Revenue Service, and the California Secretary of State review the activities of groups claiming non-profit status. Excessive lobbying is prohibited. We are providing the following documentation of The Sierra Funds lobbying efforts, it's up to you to officially ask the question whether this violates the rules for retaining non-profit status. At the end of the newsletter we have attached the IRS complaint form. Use it.

The Sierra Fund EIN: 68-0485725

The Sierra Funds lobbying efforts over the past few years to influence anti-mining legislation includes at a minimum the following:

- March 4, 2008 – The Sierra Fund lobbies a joint committee meeting in capital consisting of the Water and Parks; Natural Resources and Environmental Safety pushing for increased funding for toxic mine cleanups.
-
- In the 2008 Sierra Fund annual report they state “The Sierra Fund is a regular presence in the State Capitol, working with Senate and Assembly committees that oversee natural resource management.” This is also called lobbying.
-
- May 2008 –The Sierra Fund and Sierra Nevada Alliance sponsored their seventh annual Sierra Day in the Capitol putting citizen lobbyists “in every legislative office.” The primary objective was to lobby for funding for environmental projects. According to the Sierra Fund the results of this lobbying was “full funding for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.”
- 2008 – The Sierra Fund states their top legislative priority is changing the laws which regulate suction dredging.
- 2008 – The Sierra Fund states, The Sierra Fund maintained contact with the office of US Senator Feinstein, who subsequently introduced \$105 million for abandoned mine cleanup into the recently-passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This funding is a great opportunity to create “green” jobs for rural Sierra communities to improve California’s water quality while protecting community health.
-
- April 28, 2009 In Sierra Fund sponsored legislation, Sierra Fund CEO Izzy Martin lobbies the Senate Natural Resources committee to pass the original ban on dredging SB 670.
- May 2009 – The Sierra Fund issues an “Action Alert” telling their members and supporters to lobby the legislature to pass SB 670, which banned suction dredge mining.

STOP THE SIERRA FUND

- June 2009 – Izzy Martin lobbies the senate to pass SB 670.
- June 14th 2009 – The Sierra fund tells their members and supporters to lobby the governor to sign SB 670, which banned suction dredging.
- October 2009 – Prior long term assembly member responsible for the bill which created the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, is appointed to the Board of the Sierra Fund. He later becomes Secretary of the Resources Agency.
- November 2011 – In comments Secretary of Natural Resources acknowledge the key lobbying work the Sierra Fund did in establishing the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency which allocates taxpayer dollars of which the Sierra Fund is a recipient.
- November 7, 2011 – Governor Brown attends Sierra Fund event where the Sierra Fund continues to lobby for increased funding for environmental causes.
- March 15, 2012 – The Sierra Fund states they have been very active in the capital lately, and state they participated in a legislative briefing on mercury, and also claim they met with a number of legislators and the governor’s staff.
- February 2012 – The Sierra Fund works with six legislators to prepare their comments in support of the suction dredging ban including: Senators Pavley, Wolk, Evans and Assembly members Blumenfeld and Gordon.
- 2012 – The Sierra Fund lobbies the legislature for changes to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, attempting to change the language to consolidate control over surface mining from the counties, which support it, to the State, which doesn’t.
- August 2012 – The Sierra Fund issues a press release which states “Legislation that the Sierra Fund sponsored to strengthen the Surface Mining and Reclamation Action (sic) (SMARA), Senate Bill 143 passed the Senate floor yesterday...”The Sierra Fund and the governor’s office worked closely with Mr. Rubio in developing this bill and we are thrilled with its passage.” Note Sierra Fund CEO Izzy Martin.
- November 2012, The Sierra Fund states they have been working with the legislature to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act through SB 143, while at the same time lobbying against SB 1609 which would have provided some relief to miners.
- 24 June 2013 – The Sierra Fund sponsors a lobbying event by inviting California legislators to tour abandoned mine sites. The Sierra Fund press release states, “The tour gave a demonstration of the Combie Reservoir sediment and mercury removal project sponsored by the Nevada Irrigation District, and funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, for which the Sierra Fund is advocating increased investment.”
- August 2013 – The Sierra Fund advises their members and supporters to lobby for additional money for abandoned mine cleanup.
- January 21, 2014 – The Sierra Fund sponsors, pays for and hosts the annual Sierra Fund Legislative Reception in Sacramento.
- March 2015 – SB 673. Senator Allen’s staff acknowledges the Sierra Fund is the sponsor (author) of Senate Bill 673 which would create duplicative regulatory procedures for suction dredging and increase costs to miners.

STOP THE SIERRA FUND

- March 12, 2015 – The Sierra Fund issues a press release noting their lobbying to introduce SB 209, which once again attempts to modify SMARA to make mining more difficult.
 - April 2, 2015 – Sierra Fund posters noted in the Senate Natural Resources committee office.
 - April 14th, 2015 Izzy Martin lobbies the Senate Natural Resources committee for passage of SB 637.
 - April 22, 2015 – Izzy Martin lobbies Senator Allen’s staff urging continued support of SB 637. The same day she state’s she was meeting with the governor of California.
 - April 28, 2015 – Izzy Martin lobbies the Senate Environmental Quality committee in support of SB 637.
 - July 10th, 2015 – Izzy Martin lobbies legislature in support of Senate Bill 209, an anti-mining bill
 - July 13th, 2015 – Izzy Martin again in the California capitol lobbying in support on Senate Bill 637, an anti-suction dredging bill
 - July 14th, 2015 – Izzy Martin in the Assembly committee meeting lobbying to pass Senate Bill 637, a bill which the Sierra Fund sponsored and provided extensive support in writing language and briefings
 - August 19, 2015 Izzy Martin again at the capitol lobbying for passage of SB 637 at the appropriations committee hearing
-

IS THE SIERRA FUND REALLY A LOBBYING GROUP?

The California Political Reform Act requires lobbyists to register with the California Secretary of State, it also requires any person who spends more than \$5,000 in a calendar quarter (three months) on lobbying to influence legislation.

A fair argument can be made that MS Martin of the Sierra Fund is heavily engaged in lobbying and her salary and costs while engaged in anti-mining lobbying would exceed \$5,000 over the prior 3 months.

It would be worthwhile to ask the California

Secretary of State to determine whether MS Martin is engaged in lobbying in violation of the Political Reform Act. You can request they look into this by writing a letter to:

Secretary of State
Political Reform Division
P.O. Box 1467
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-1467

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THE WMA PRESIDENT



Miners Rally 20 September in Nevada City

We're trying to raise funds for the legal effort, the reality is the past summer has been expensive for all of us. Please attend the rally on 20 September and help us raise funds for the fight. All funds raised will go directly to the lawyer, James Buchal, and will support the Injunction Appeal; the Trial Case and the Rinehart Case.

When you've been in the thick of this CEQA stuff as much as we have you keep coming to one conclusion – it was all a fraud.

That being said, how do you prove it? We all knew we got taken to the cleaners, but to be honest the game is always rigged against us, so there is no point complaining about it, you just have to do something about it.

We set out with one purpose, to expose the fraud for what it was. That's taken a lot longer than we ever imagined, but to be honest even on our worst days it was the support of a handful of folks kept us going. For the most part you know who you are.

It's folks who sent \$20 a month every month, because they believed in us. It's the people who sent \$5 when that's all they had. It's the people who've bought gold or claims from us. And it's everyone who's ever donated a dollar.

But, it's never been about the WMA. When we set out to file suit Jerry Hobbs stepped in and offered his support, and we were grateful for that.

As most of you know we elected to retain our own attorney to give us the best chance of winning, and to allow PLP to focus on the critical preemption issue. This has worked out well for both of us, and saved legal expenses.

The times we've been short paying legal bills, and we didn't know where the money would come from, it seemed someone always stepped up. The guys at Bucket Digger have just been phenomenal at writing a check just when we thought we wouldn't make it.

This month it was Shannon Poe over at the American Mining Rights Association (AMRA) who stepped in and helped us pay off some big legal bills. We're grateful for that.

A few months ago when we were again struggling to pay some legal bills we had someone step up and pay a lot more for some gold than it was worth, and we were grateful for that.

When we needed an attorney we had Dave McCracken and the New 49ers step up and provide us with their attorney.

When we asked for support to attend hearings and meetings the good folks at East Bay Prospectors, the Motherlode Gold Hounds, the New Millenium Diggers and a host of other clubs including GPAA and PLP members stepped up and filled the room.

There's a couple mining companies which also stepped in when we were dead broke and helped us pay legal bills, but for obvious reasons they don't want to be named, but how do you say thanks?

Well, we filed the trial brief, and we want to say thanks to everyone who has believed and supported, not just us but supported PLP, and the New 49ers. We're all in it together, we're all working together and we're all doing what we do best to win your rights back.

SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE SUPPORTING THE FIGHT

Thanks to everyone who has stepped up and funded this fight. We appreciate your support. The Western Mining Alliance pays our own legal bills and we're grateful to Dave McCracken and the New 49ers for allowing us to share the legal costs with their own legal challenges.

We believe we've done the very best job we can with your hard earned money. We've never paid ourselves a dime and we continue to appreciate every dollar provided. Sometimes, when you're not looking at unpaid legal bills you forget how much even a single contribution is appreciated. You don't have to send a lot of money, even \$5 helps us out, and we appreciate it.

Please continue your support of our efforts to fight the State, and please continue to support the businesses which support the fight. You can also avoid the businesses which are supporting the environmentalists.

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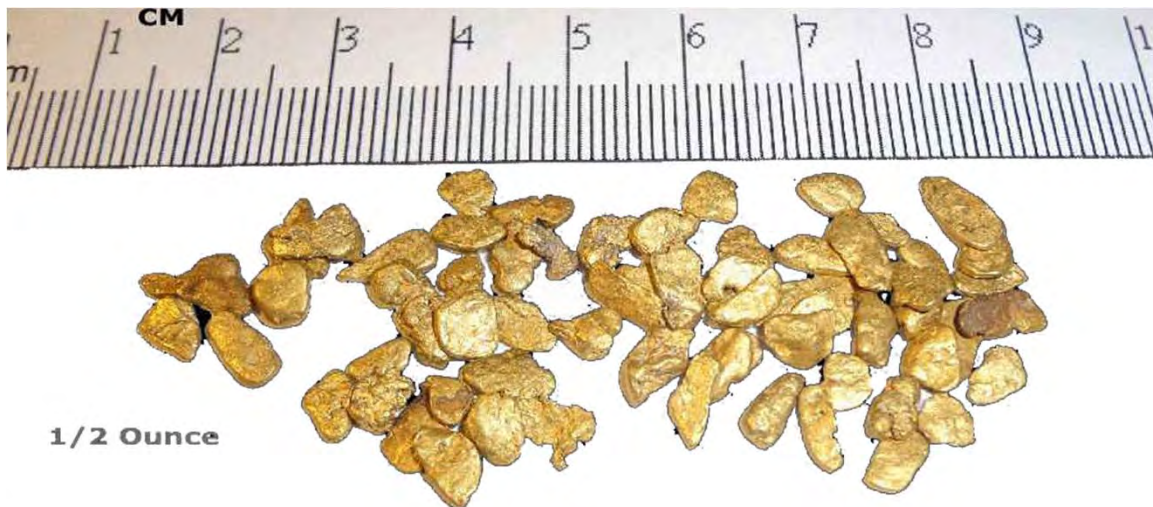
I'm the daughter of a gold miner and I've been in this business for many years. Please call me with your compliance needs. - Lyla Tracy

Windrush@hughes.net

530-265-5466

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Our online store is www.SierraRivers.com. Through the store you can purchase products which help us fund the legal fight. If you appreciate what we're doing, but just don't want to join an organization then at least help us out by buying some gold, a Claims Report, bumper stickers or you can even request a custom report. Just buy something to help fund the lawyer. Every dollar goes to support the fight, we don't pay ourselves a dime.



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Some Parting Shots



The picture to the right was provided to us by a descendent of a Klondike Gold Rush miner. This was their great-grandfather who came from Norway to participate in the last great Gold Rush. Back when men were men.

Above, a copy of his permit. Note the permit was titled "Free Miners Certificate" and was valid for one year. What a thought – a "free miner"



The State versus You

"Liberty once lost is lost forever." John Adams

We Need Your Help

- The State has relentlessly pursued prosecution of a young miner after the Appeals court ruled he was unfairly convicted
- We are now pushing the defense of mining to the California Supreme Court
- This is the last stand to save California mining from the regulators and environmentalists

Send Your Donation To:

Brandon Rinehart
c/o James Buchal
MURPHY & BUCHAL LLP
3425 SE Yamhill Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97214
E-mail: jbuchal@mbllp.com



Help Fund the Rinehart Case!

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Miners have been fighting a 9 year legal battle with California over the right to earn a living. In a relentless prosecution of a young miner the State has pushed their mining ban to the California Supreme Court. We need your help to save California mining. Please donate to the Rinehart Legal Fund

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