



This is the future for a couple of thousand Oregon residents if SB 401 or SB 838 pass.

Senator Dingfelder, at the urging of several environmental groups, has initiated senate bill 838 to ban suction gold dredging in Oregon. Following the lead established in California, the environmental groups were able to place a so-called "temporary" moratorium on the activity and by repeatedly extending the timeframe and challenging the studies, have effectively shut down the activity.

Senator Bates has initiated senate bill 401 to usurp vast areas of Oregon public and private land and remove it from multiple use as it was intended. The W/S designation would in effect ban suction gold dredging in Oregon.

Interestingly enough, both Oregon and California regulatory agencies have stated that **"gold dredging under the current restrictions and regulations does not cause any significant impact on the environment"**.

Many Oregonians in some of the poorest counties in the state have been supplementing their income by dredging for gold in the creeks and rivers of rural Oregon. This is not the first time that gold mining has helped ease some of the financial difficulties in the state. During the Great Depression many hundreds went into the mineral rich hills willing to do the physical work required to recover a small amount of gold from the countryside. This self-sufficiency kept many families off the breadlines and helped reduce the burden on the state.

Please oppose SB 401 and 838 and refrain from following this "let them eat cake" attitude.

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