

From: Mary Ward
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 10:54 AM
To: Reiley Beth
Subject: Senate Bills 401 and 838

Dear Ms. Reiley,

We would like to go on record in opposition on the above-mentioned Bills. We moved to Baker City so we could do a little hobby mining after we retired. We have joined the local mining associations so we would make sure we did not violate any habitat laws. We pan or use a small sluice box and fill in any holes we might make. We do not put dry dirt into the creek to make mud nor do we have any motorized equipment. We enjoy our outings, spending time together and the anticipation of some day, finding a nugget.

We have lived in Oregon all of our lives and Gary was raised on a farm in Adrian, Oregon and I grew up in Nyssa. We were raised hunting and fishing and we have always respected the land and waterways. As the years have gone by, the laws have changed, not to the good I might add, so that it makes it harder to enjoy our out-of-doors, which is why we stayed in Oregon. It used to be, if we went hunting or fishing, we asked the owner of the property and they usually allowed access to their land. Because we were raised in a farming community, the land was the same when we left. Much of the prime hunting grounds have now been sold to out-of-state people who were never raised the way we were, so we have no access to the places we loved. Mining, fishing and mushrooming now seem to be the only thing left for us to do. Gary's Grandpa, John Ward and his brother's mined in Prarie City in the early 1900's and the Ward Mine was still in the family until about 15 years ago, when it was turned back to the government, as we missed a year doing the assessment work because of our work schedules.

Please reconsider these Bills and allow us to continue sluicing and panning the springs and rivers in Oregon. We are slowly losing all our rights in Oregon as the government takes a little away each year, so that now, our grandchildren will be denied the right and the fun of camping, fishing and exploring.

Sincerely,

Gary and Mary Ward
736 Ashlee Way
Baker City, OR 97814
(541) 523-6302