

The environmental side.

As a miner, we are constantly being attack by special interest groups more concerned with appearances than fact. We need to be watchful of what we read, and try to understand the information that is being put forth in the media and in their publications.

Be watchful for such words as: may's, might have's, could's, appears's, and sustainability. Or evidence showing how much damage is happening in an isolated case, and could make you believe this is occurring all over, and that one persons actions is the norm and happening everywhere.

Just not true.

These are words that could mislead and get your emotions going, and not allow you to find the true answers yourself. They are also words to sway you into believing something that has no solid scientific fact to prove otherwise. Some studies presented are usually done in a laboratory—in a fish tank as an example--where conditions can be set up to get the results to prove their point. If I was a scientist, out of work, sure I would gladly for, let's say for a couple hundred grand, to put food on my table and support my family--to come up with a "scientific study" to support their cause.

Case in point when dealing with mining issues. They show usually only one miner tearing apart the environment, destroying fish habitat, supposeably polluting the streams. Turbidity in the past has been shown not to be a pollutant. They don't mention his operations could well be within his Rights, and doesn't show he is doing anything he can to prevent pollution, whether the stream has salmon in them, whether he is mining during the in water dredge season, etc.

When we operate according to set guidelines already established, we become stewards of the land in practicing these principles. Past studies show, that when we do so, there is a minimum impact, and possibly an actual benefit to the health of the environment. We remove conditions that prevent dangerous mercury from forming, by breaking up hard packing of river deposits caused by past mining and logging operations, remove mercury and lead--lead has been shown to be a more dangerous substance than mercury--, and by removing trash from other recreationist—boaters, swimmers, fishermen, etc. We also revitalize fish rearing habitat by cleaning up gravel deposits.

We create much needed jobs, help supplement our retirements/provide an income to our families, and help the local economy by our expenditures.

In closing down all mining operations--the recreational miners included, tourist from other States--will further our financial crisis here in Oregon.