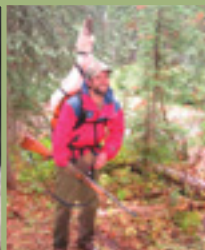




Sensible Solutions

Balancing Hardrock Mining
with Fish and Wildlife Resources in the West



www.sensiblemining.org

CREDITS

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National Wildlife Federation inspires Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Founded in 1936 by editorial cartoonist J.N. "Ding" Darling, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has emerged as a premiere grassroots conservation organization, leading an integrated network of four million members and supporters and 47 state-based affiliated organizations throughout the United States. Through a range of publications, grassroots networks, and professional staff, NWF unites Americans in their shared value of wildlife conservation.



Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a coalition of leading hunting, fishing and conservation organizations, labor unions and individual grassroots partners working together to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing by: (a.) expanding access to places to hunt and fish, (b.) conserving fish and wildlife and the habitats necessary to sustain them, and (c.) increasing funding for conservation and management.



Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. TU accomplishes this mission on local, state and national levels with an extensive and dedicated volunteer network. TU's national office, just outside of Washington, D.C., and its regional offices employ professionals who testify before Congress, publish a quarterly magazine, intervene in federal legal proceedings, and work with the organization's 152,000 volunteers in 450 chapters nationwide to keep them active and involved in conservation issues. TU is a nationwide leader in abandoned mine cleanup.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



America's cherished public lands – including irreplaceable natural resources such as fish, wildlife and drinking water – are struggling to cope with the far-reaching effects of more than a century of hardrock mining. Now, in a groundbreaking effort, American sportsmen are uniting to conserve these resources by advocating for sensible reform of the 1872 General Mining Law, our country's most outdated and destructive legislation.

Sportsmen United for Sensible Mining (SUSM) represents millions of hunters and anglers, fish and wildlife professionals, and citizens who recreate on and enjoy our public lands. Sportsmen believe that a more sensible approach to hardrock mining in the West will allow for better management of our fish and wildlife resources. SUSM supports the following recommendations:

■ End mining's priority status on public lands.

More than 50 percent of America's blue-ribbon trout streams and more than 80 percent of critical habitat for elk is found on public lands. In South Dakota, an attempt by citizens to prohibit surface metals mining and conserve fisheries in Spearfish Canyon was struck down by a federal judge. The reason? The 1872 Mining Law, which gives hardrock mining precedence over all other public land uses, including hunting and fishing.

■ Recover a fair royalty from all minerals, present and future, taken from public lands and establish a fund for fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects associated with past mining.

Sportsmen believe in "pay for play." Fees from equipment and license sales help state officials conserve fish and wildlife resources through research and habitat management. Mining companies that benefit from use of public lands likewise should shoulder the costs of management through royalty payments to the federal treasury. These funds should be allocated to state fish and wildlife departments, conservation organizations and others for habitat improvement projects associated with mining. New Mexico's Red River, once a blue-ribbon trout stream, has been devastated by molybdenum mining. While the mine still is producing, the public must foot the bill for its cleanup, which has been prioritized by the EPA.

- Ensure that resource professionals have full discretion in the planning and permitting processes to conserve public lands where high fish, water and wildlife values exist.

Our nation's public lands harbor some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat and provide some of the finest hunting and angling opportunities in the country. In California, mercury from recreational suction dredgers on the Klamath River is endangering salmon populations – and land managers have limited

authority to curtail mining activities. Sportsmen believe that federal land managers need clear regulatory and legal authority to assure adequate management and reclamation of mining sites.



- Allow “Good Samaritans” reclamation incentives and common-sense liability relief.

Companies and nonprofits that have no connection to abandoned mine waste or interest in re-mining the area for minerals should be allowed to return the land to other valid uses, following reclamation of the land to the extent feasible. In places such as the American Fork in Utah, Trout Unlimited, Tiffany and Co. Foundation, and other “good Samaritans” helped to clean up abandoned mines – but more work remains to be done.

- Prohibit the patenting or sale of public lands under this law; keep public land in public hands.

In Wyoming, interest in gold and uranium could eliminate public access to some of the state's most productive big-game hunting grounds. America's hunters and anglers depend on sound management of public lands and waters to ensure the sustainability of fish and wildlife resources and open access to pursue sporting traditions. Unfortunately more than 3 million acres of our public lands – along with the extraordinary habitat they once provided – have been practically given away to mining companies for as little as \$2.50 per acre under the patenting provisions of the 1872 Mining Law.

Sportsmen United for Sensible Mining (SUSM), a coalition of organizations and individual grassroots partners spearheaded by the National Wildlife Federation, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and Trout Unlimited, formed to preserve America's legacy of hunting and fishing through sensible mining practices. This effort to address the need for mining reform includes rank and file sportsmen to policy specialists at the national level.

Now is the time to implement reform of the 1872 Mining Law – reform that will allow harmonious integration of state and federal wildlife habitat and population objectives in permit operating plans and conserve fish and wildlife resources on America's public lands.

INTRODUCTION

Public lands are integral to America's hunting and fishing heritage. The thrill of a cutthroat trout rising to a dry fly cast on a sparkling Western river. The sight of a bull elk emerging from a stand of aspen on a frosty high-country morning. The tug of a sockeye bending a rod. A flight of pintails circling an autumn marsh. Our public lands are synonymous with scenes like this, with the best of hunting and angling.

More than half of the nation's blue-ribbon trout streams flow across public land. Public land provides most of the critical habitat supporting elk. Many of the spawning grounds for salmon are found on public land. This is primarily Western land, the majority managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). And almost all the land overseen by those two agencies, some 460 million acres, is open for hunters and anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy.

Public lands are also open to mining, and the pursuit of hardrock minerals has taken a profound environmental toll. Dating back to 19th-century Western gold and silver rushes, an estimated 500,000 abandoned mines are on the landscape. Contaminated water flows from the adits, portals, pits, tailings and waste piles of many of those sites. Acid drainage – created when sulfide-based rock is dug up and exposed to air or water – is particularly harmful. In addition to their toxicity to fish and other aquatic life, acids release

grazing also impact places we hunt and fish, but those activities are regulated. In contrast, mining of hardrock minerals, including gold, silver, copper and uranium, is governed by the antiquated General Mining Law of 1872. Former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall said this 136-year-old statute “permits more damage to our environment, more desecration of our public lands, than any other law this nation has ever enacted.”

Passed in part to encourage frontier development and settlement, the Mining Law decrees that “all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States ... shall be free and open to exploration and purchase, and the land in which they are found to occupation and purchase.” Thus, in contrast to public-lands logging, where timber is purchased from the government, or oil and gas or coal extraction, which necessitates a royalty payment, or livestock grazing, for which a fee applies, hardrock minerals are open for the taking. Anyone can stake a claim on BLM and Forest Service land, except for designated wilderness and national parks and monuments, and hold it indefinitely for a \$125 annual fee.

A meaningful levy on public-lands mineral extraction could help federal agencies initiate abandoned mine cleanup and stream restoration. But the mining industry contends that royalties would make domestic mining unprofitable, even though much hardrock mining occurs on private land, where royalties are always negotiated.

Let's work together to guarantee that mining on public lands is modernized to the benefit of fish, wildlife and water resources. America's rich public-lands sporting traditions demand nothing less.

heavy metals into waterways. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 40 percent of Western headwaters – most on public land – are contaminated by mine pollution. Put another way, using U.S. Bureau of Mines' figures, an estimated 12,000 miles of streams and 180,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs have been impacted by mining. The price tag for cleaning up abandoned mines has been estimated between \$32 and \$72 billion.

Mining, of course, is not the only activity that impacts our public lands. Logging, oil and gas development, and

After staking claims, mining interests can acquire full ownership of federal lands for small fees through the Mining Law's patenting provision, which has transferred an area the size of Connecticut from public domain to private hands. Patented land has resulted in private inholdings on BLM and national forest lands in areas that have nothing to do with mining but that cut off public access and fragment habitat. Although Congress has passed a patenting moratorium in recent years, the moratoriums must be renewed annually, and the patenting provision remains law.

While various environmental regulations apply to hardrock mining, no federal statutory provisions specific to mining and no reclamation standards exist under the 1872 Mining Law. The EPA has rated the hardrock mining industry as the largest source of pollution in the United States.

The Mining Law makes hardrock mining the highest and best use of our public lands. Thus, as federal stewards, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are handcuffed when it comes to decisions regarding new mine proposals. Agencies can require measures to reduce resource damages and ensure that mining projects comply with legal standards. But, unlike any other resource use – timber, grazing, energy projects, developed recreation – they cannot weigh the benefits of a proposal against its potential impacts to wildlife, fisheries, water and air quality, recreational opportunities, scenery, and other public land values. Simply put, hardrock mining takes precedence over all other uses on public land.

America's hardrock mining legacy presents a problem of historic proportions for our public lands. But far from being strictly historic, it is very much an ongoing and growing issue. Mining activity tends to come in waves, and the current wave is bigger than ever.

Two factors are fueling the latest boom. One is the price of metals. As of February 2008, the price of gold was at an all-time record high of \$927 an ounce, more than three times its price in 2001. The second factor is technology. Gone is the iconic Western image of the lone prospector with mule, pick and pan. Instead, multinational companies harness gigantic earth-moving equipment and the latest chemical processes. Modern gold mining entails digging, crushing and soaking earth with cyanide to extract specks of gold by the ounce. This gives mining companies the ability to profitably mine low-grade gold deposits.

From Arizona to Alaska, hardrock mining exploration is on the rise. Since 2003 mining claims on Western public lands have increased by 80 percent. Recent calculations show 376,493 active mining claims covering approximately 9.3 million acres of federal land. At a minimum, sportsmen should anticipate increased exploration activity, new roads, drilling, truck traffic and posted signs. While only a fraction of claims are likely to become full-fledged mines, the extent of mining operations underway bears note.



Anyone who cherishes our public lands, in particular the hunting and fishing opportunities they offer, has a stake in our nation's approach to mining legislation. As efforts to reform the Mining Law come to a head, the sportsmen's voice will be crucial.

Let's work together to guarantee that mining on public lands is modernized to the benefit of fish, wildlife and water resources. America's rich public-lands sporting traditions demand nothing less.

Chris Wood,
Trout Unlimited

Jim Lyon,
National Wildlife Federation

Tom St. Hilaire,
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

MONTANA

Blackfoot River

A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean, a must for every angler's bookshelf, pays homage to the Blackfoot River, which flows 132 winding miles across western Montana, joining the Clark Fork near Missoula. When filmmakers came to turn the classic book into a movie, they had to shoot scenes along other rivers due to environmental damage to the Blackfoot. Mining was a major source of the damage.

The Mike Horse Mine dates to the late 1800s. Its location on the Blackfoot's headwaters east of the town of Lincoln enabled its degradation of the river's entire reach. The mine had a number of owners and expansions into the 1970s, yielding gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc, along with great quantities of acid-generating tailings and waste rock.

In 1975 the tailings impoundment blew out. A surge of toxic mud flushed down the Blackfoot, killing all aquatic life for 10 miles downstream. Residue of that incident still contaminates the Blackfoot. The mine's owner, ASARCO, rebuilt the impoundment dam with dry tailings, and in the mid 1990s, agreed to undertake voluntary cleanup of the Mike Horse mess, thereby escaping legal action. Then it declared bankruptcy.

Downstream, stretches of the Blackfoot have seen intensive restoration work, including substantial, sustained efforts by Trout Unlimited volunteers, paying off with cleaner water, healthier banks and gradually increasing trout numbers. Montana conservationists and sportsmen joined ranks to oppose a massive cyanide-leach gold mine proposed for the



“Sensible mining reform gets us one step closer to recovering funds to help restore fish and wildlife habitat affected by mining practices. America is ready for common-sense reforms to this archaic law. ”

Bruce Farling,
Executive Director,
Montana Council,
Trout Unlimited

Blackfoot's lush river valley several miles below the Mike Horse. A statewide voter initiative in 1998 outlawed cyanide leaching in Montana as too environmentally destructive. Montanans could hardly be more protective of their beloved Blackfoot. Fishing guide Paul Roos spoke for many when he said, “That river means as much to me as any nonhuman thing can.”

Nevertheless, mineral exploration along the Blackfoot is on the rise as metal values climb. At the headwaters, there's grave concern that history may repeat itself. The Mike Horse Mine's rebuilt 400-foot-long dam is eroding at its base, seeping toxins into the Blackfoot. Left alone, the dam will blow. Without a liable mining company, the public will have to foot the bill for a daunting remediation challenge – removing and securing 2 million cubic yards of tailings – to assure that trout, including west slope cutthroat and bull trout, once again run through the fabled Blackfoot.





IDAHO

Yankee Fork

Idaho's Hecla Mine is situated near the Salmon River and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area, the largest block of wilderness in the contiguous United States. Jordan Creek flows from the mine site immediately into the Yankee Fork, which in turn flows about seven miles to the Salmon River. Hecla Mining Company opened this mine in 1994, heralding it as "state of the art." From the start the operation was plagued by problems, including cyanide leaks and spills and a landslide that buried 100 yards of Jordan Creek, federally designated as critical salmon spawning habitat. After just three years the mine closed, but not before 515 acres of national forest were mined.

During the past decade, Hecla's 500-million-gallon tailings impoundment has leaked, further degrading Jordan Creek with cyanide levels harmful to fish and other aquatic life and threatening to expose more than 4 million tons of heavy metals. Fearing a disastrous blowout, Hecla and the U.S. Forest Service determined that the best course of "reclamation" was to pipe tailings from the faulty impoundment into the nearby Yankee Fork drainage of the Salmon River.

Since then, the Yankee Fork has become what's technically known as a "mixing zone," although some disgruntled fishermen call it a "sacrifice zone." Dams lower down the Columbia River watershed have drastically affected Salmon River fisheries. Some people believe that such impacts offer an even more compelling reason to safeguard river health. Charlie Ray, a lifelong salmon and steelhead fisherman and former river guide, doesn't mince words about mining's menace to the river he loves. "The tailings impoundments for the Thompson Creek and Hecla Mines are time bombs. When they give way, that's the end of the Salmon River's steelhead and salmon fishery." His ominous words give new meaning to "River of No Return."



Pam Smolczynski,
Trout Unlimited Restoration Coordinator

"I've been fishing on the Yankee Fork for many years and want to make sure salmon are here for future generations. When Idaho's families care for the resource, the fish return."

NEVADA

Montana Mountains

North of Winnemucca, cradled by the Quinn and Kings rivers, the Montana Mountains rise prominently above the Black Rock Desert, sharply contrasting that stark landscape with rolling sage, open meadows, and aspen. Really more of a plateau, the Montana range offers some of the best sage grouse habitat in the state and is a popular destination for hunters. It is also an area that, until recently, saw little mining activity.

Now the Montana range is “ringed with mining claims,” says Willie Molini, Field Representative for Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. He fears that, “If the mining claims prove up, the impact to sage grouse and hunting could be severe.” Sage grouse are in decline around the West, making Nevada’s Montana Mountain bird population all the more significant. As Molini reflected in a recent Nevada newspaper editorial, “Under the 1872 Mining Law, mining is automatically the highest priority for public land, trumping clean water, wildlife habitat, or other resources that may prove valuable to more people over the long haul.”



“The Mining Law of 1872 directs mining on the public lands in the West. That law was enacted the same year that Mark Twain published ‘Roughing It,’ his famous account of a stagecoach ride across frontier Nevada. A lot has changed since then and it’s time that the Mining Law of 1872 is modernized as well.”



Willie Molini,
Field Representative
for Theodore Roosevelt
Conservation Partnership

Great Salt Lake



The Great Salt Lake and its marshes east of Nevada are a duck hunting mecca. The area is important to millions of waterfowl and shorebirds and draws more than 20,000 hunters annually. It's a safe bet that the last thing on their minds is gold mining.

In 2005 the state of Utah issued an advisory warning against consuming cinnamon teals, goldeneyes and shovelers from the Great Salt Lake vicinity. U.S. Geological Survey data revealed mercury concentrations in the lake as much as 100 times higher than normal. Samples of waterfowl and their food sources likewise

showed extremely high mercury levels. A neurotoxin linked to brain damage, birth defects and cancer, mercury becomes progressively more concentrated up the food chain.

“To see our rich hunting tradition and even richer natural resource progressively ... contaminated by the toxic waste of thoughtless enterprises is heartbreaking to me and to thousands of waterfowlers.”

Jack Ray, Vice President of Utah Waterfowl Association



Where the mercury in the Great Salt Lake comes from is unclear. Power plant emissions can be a source, and winds can carry mercury particles great distances. However, a tremendous amount of mercury is emitted in Nevada, upwind of the Great Salt Lake. According to the EPA, northern Nevada's mines release more than 4,600 pounds of mercury each year.

Jack Ray is vice president of the Utah Waterfowl Association and a passionate voice for the Great Salt Lake and its duck hunters. He fears that the extent of the mercury threat is only beginning to be understood. “To see our rich hunting tradition and even richer natural resource progressively ... contaminated by the toxic waste of thoughtless enterprises is heartbreaking to me and to thousands of waterfowlers. We worry greatly about what we eat now, but we also worry that our children and grandchildren are losing the right to wade into the marshes, into the heart of a fall migration, to feel the sweep of countless flocks and to be nourished, body and soul, by the lake.”

COLORADO

Alamosa River

Cyanide process gold operations have reaped riches for the mining industry in Nevada, but not so in Colorado, though the technology certainly made its mark. In 1986 Galactic Resources opened the Summitville Mine in the San Juan Mountains near the Continental Divide, an alpine setting poorly equipped to handle such an operation. With steep terrain, cold winters, copious snowfall and geology ripe for acid generation at the headwaters of the Alamosa River, there were plenty of reasons for officials to say no to this ill-advised project, but saying no is not an option under the 1872 Mining Law.



“The Summitville disaster in Colorado is the perfect example of the need for a fund dedicated solely to fish and wildlife habitat restoration associated with past mining. So much damage has already been done, and the cost for cleanup is a staggering, ongoing nightmare. A dedicated fund will go a long way to restoring the damage of the past.”



Lew Carpenter,
National Wildlife Federation

Problems developed rapidly at the Summitville Mine. Unable to handle the high volume of water yielded by spring snow melt, the operation allowed acidic waters to flow unchecked. Later, the leaching facility leaked cyanide into a nearby stream. Canadian-owned Galactic knew this toxic teakettle was about to overflow. As the price of gold dropped, the company abandoned the site and declared bankruptcy. The \$7.2 million bond it posted hardly scratched the surface of remediation, and taxpayers have been paying to stabilize the site ever since.

Damage to the Alamosa River was severe. Acid-laced runoff eradicated 17 miles of the river's aquatic life, with fish kills documented 20 miles downstream. Local resident Ignacio Rodriguez recalled taking his grandson fishing and finding the Alamosa running red. “The fish were all belly up. Rainbow trout and browns – all dead. It was sickening.”

The EPA took over the Summitville site in 1992. Cleanup – containing the cyanide soup and halting heavy metals leaching into the Alamosa – now is tagged at \$200 million, or about what Galactic profited before abandoning the site.

Part of Summitville's cleanup challenge fell to Colorado. Initially, officials proposed downgrading their remediation target for the upper Alamosa from Class I, sustaining a fishery, to Class II, a waterway without fish. The suggestion that the Alamosa never had supported native fish outraged residents of the San Luis Valley. Responding to the state's claim, a citizens' group collected testimonials from locals who had caught trout in the Alamosa, including a photo of a priest showing off his catch. The state backed down. Full remediation would proceed, but today Summitville Mine reclamation is far from complete. As for on-site water treatment and securing continued funding? That's a challenge that will be with us, EPA officials say, in perpetuity.



NEW MEXICO

Red River

In 1966 the water quality of northern New Mexico's Red River was rated "good to excellent" by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Despite several decades of underground mining in the area, the Red River, renowned as a blue-ribbon trout fishery, still ran clear through the Carson National Forest.

In 1994 the lower eight miles of the Red River were declared "biologically dead" by the state Water Quality Control Commission. As Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame guide and fishing book author Taylor Streit reflected, "The lower Red River and its confluence with the Rio

Grande had big resident rainbow trout. Toxic seepage and dumping from mining has been devastating to that storied stretch of river."

Kent Salazar,
New Mexico Wildlife Federation



"The 1872 Mining Law offers little or no protection to the environment, gives away publicly owned minerals and sells public land at 1872 prices. It is time to replace it with a sensible mining law that protects fish and wildlife."

Large-scale molybdenum mining came to Questa, a community on the Red River, in 1965 when Molycorp, a subsidiary of Chevron, initiated open pit operations. Mining reverted back to underground operations in 1983, leaving the pit and 360 million tons of acid-generating waste rock excavated from it piled next to Questa and the Red River like an open, uncovered wound. The acids released heavy metals, draining over or percolating through waste rock into both surface and groundwater. This water in turn contaminated Questa drinking wells before entering the Red River. (In addition, a nine-mile pipeline running adjacent to and just feet from the Red River to transport slurry to the mine's tailings impoundment has ruptured more than 80 times.

Though the Molycorp Mine is still producing, it was placed on the National Priorities cleanup list by the EPA in 2000. The Red River's prized rainbows are gone, but if awards were being handed out for cleanup challenges, Molycorp would get a blue ribbon.

OREGON

Upper Illinois River

Hardrock mining does not have to be large scale to have significant and widespread impacts on fisheries and fishing. A case in point is the rivers and streams of the Siskiyou National Forest in southwest Oregon, where, with the high price of gold, more modern-day prospectors are flocking to the hobby of recreational mining.

Picks, shovels and gold pans have been traded in for suction dredges – contraptions that are sort of vacuum cleaners mounted on pontoon rafts. Along with water, gravel from river bottoms is sucked up into a sluice box that lets water and gravel pass back into the river but retains gold particles. If that sounds hardly recreational, it is far simpler and a lot less expensive than developing an open pit gold mine. In 2004, about 2,000 people were registered to operate suction dredges in Oregon. The Siskiyou's Illinois River, renowned for wild beauty and biodiversity, is a particular hotspot.



"I hope that one day every grandchild has the opportunity to enjoy fishing our wild rivers. Fishing and the river environment that goes with it shape our communities' identities. We must insure we have regulations to protect our water resources and money to clean up the messes left behind by mining operations."

David G. Pitts,
Northwest Steelheaders

Unfortunately, the sections of river that draw gold seekers – pristine meandering runs with gentle gradients and fine gravel bottoms – also tend to be the best habitat for coho and chinook salmon and steelhead. Anglers seeking these rewards instead find eroded stream banks, excavated gravel beds, increased water turbidity, sediment plumes, reduced vegetative cover, and litter after dredgers have passed through. As for fish, a Forest Service survey found "dramatically fewer sites where salmon successfully spawn" in streams where dredging occurs compared to where it hasn't. Specifically, beds are disrupted or smothered with silt.

According to Forest Service officials, little can be done in the name of protecting fish. Miners who intend to clear riparian vegetation or excavate riverbanks are supposed to file a plan with the agency. Otherwise, they can operate with little federal oversight. As one Forest Service staffer put it, "With the regulations and the mining laws the way they are, if what they propose is reasonable, essentially we have to find a way to approve it." For steelhead fisherman Richard Nawa, "It's preposterous that we don't allow loggers within 300 feet of streams with fisheries, yet we let suction dredging trash some of Oregon's best salmon and steelhead spawning waters."





Matt Little,
National Wildlife Federation

CALIFORNIA

Mid-Klamath River

It has been said that gold mining made California. That's a matter of perspective, but it certainly changed California, particularly for the Karuk Tribe, whose home is the Klamath River country in the northern part of the state. With the Karuk's culture intimately tied to Klamath salmon and steelhead fisheries, the influx of recreational suction dredgers to their homeland is stirring up controversy, along with gravel and silt and something more insidious.

Stirred-up river bottoms can destroy redds. The suctioning also stirs up mercury. Whether airborne or in water, mercury is highly toxic, bad for fish and people who eat them. The mercury in Klamath waters originated from 19th-century placer and hydraulic mining.

"The gold rush helped make California what it is today and continues to have consequences for the state. It makes good sense to recover a royalty from mining companies to help clean up decades of mining impacts that continue to affect our coldwater fisheries."

An astounding amount of this mercury ended up in California watersheds. A 2005 California Water Boards study estimated that California gold rush miners used 6,600 tons of it, about half of which was lost into the environment. Over time the mercury, which is very heavy, has become at least partially bound up in sediment and, as such, less toxic to aquatic life. In places where frontier mining was particularly intensive, mercury in sediment may be more concentrated – what researchers call "hot spots." The Water Boards study found that, following a suction dredge test, mercury concentration in suspended sediment was "an order of magnitude higher than the minimum amount California classifies as a hazardous waste."

A New 49ers mining club holds 70 miles of mining claims along the mid-Klamath River and its tributaries in the Klamath National Forest. The club has 1,200 members who pay a fee to try their luck at dredging on those claims. Given that Klamath salmon are already suffering from dams and agricultural water allocations, the Karuk Tribe feels stronger regulatory oversight is needed, especially with the mercury problem.

ARIZONA

South Rim, Grand Canyon

“Ask anyone in the know about the best place to hunt elk in Arizona, and the answer is always going to be the same: Management Unit 9. The wait to draw a tag for Unit 9 is now 16 years, but that’s no surprise. Some of the largest trophy elk in the world come from Management Unit 9.” So says Ron Pittman of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation’s Arizona office. Pittman is justifiably proud of his organization’s efforts to help this herd of up to a thousand elk. It has spent a half million dollars in its “water for wildlife” habitat improvement project.



“The rapid increase in uranium mining claims has Arizona sportsmen on alert. Mining has its place on public lands, but there are just some places mining should not take place due to the adverse impacts to fish and wildlife.”

Chris Denham,
Arizona Wildlife Federation

Management Unit 9 is the Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest, a relatively small district bordering the southeast portion of Grand Canyon National Park. It is rolling country of pinyon-juniper and sage intermixed with stands of ponderosa pines. In addition to the elk, its mule deer and turkey hunting can be good, plus there are pronghorn, according to Arizona Fish and Game habitat specialist Rick Miller. “There are also,” he says, “mining claims going in all over the place.”

The uranium boom in the Southwest has extended to the south rim of the Grand Canyon. In 2007 more than 1,000 uranium claims were staked in the Tusayan Ranger District. The Tusayan District has a particularly high concentration of claims because, though the geology for uranium is favorable over a much larger area, uranium mining is banned on the Navajo Nation, bordering the district to the east, and on the Havasupai Reservation to the west. Both reservations suffer a tragic legacy of radiation-induced cancer from Cold War period mining on their lands.

In January 2008 the Kaibab National Forest approved test drilling by an international uranium mining company called VANE Minerals. Test drilling will be as deep as 2,000 feet. If it proves lucrative, the prospect of deep “in situ” leaching, with chemicals injected into groundwater to dissolve uranium, which is then pumped to the surface, raises serious concerns about groundwater contamination based on industry track records elsewhere. A VANE drill-test site is visible from one of the Elk Foundation “water for wildlife” projects.

So Management Unit 9, renowned for world-class elk hunting and the focus of a major effort by sportsmen to confront water shortages and maintain prime habitat, is now in the crosshairs of the uranium mining industry. The prospect of roads, trucks, drill rigs, fencing, on-site housing, more people, and the possible permanent damage to an aquifer that is already hurting is worrisome to hunters. Pittman says, “We’re watching and monitoring this real close.”





WASHINGTON

Okanogan Highlands & Sanpoil River

In the 1880s, gold was discovered on northeast Washington's Colville Reservation, which was established the same year the General Mining Law was passed, 1872. The Colville Tribes were pressured to cede that land, which they did with the agreement that "tribal hunting and fishing rights throughout the ceded lands ... shall not be taken away or in any way abridged."

In 1991 Battle Mountain Gold proposed a large open-pit, cyanide-leach gold mine on Buckhorn Mountain, located in Okanogan National Forest

near the village of Chesaw. Community groups and conservationists opposed gutting the mountain and putting surface and groundwater at risk. The Colville Tribes echoed that opposition and raised the additional objection that the mine – on their ceded land – would harm their guaranteed hunting and fishing rights.

The Buckhorn area of the Okanogan Highlands is popular with hunters, including tribe members, seeking mule deer, whitetails and elk. It is also an important wildlife corridor that would be imperiled by mining. Buckhorn is headwaters for the Kettle River, which traces the eastern border of the reservation.

"The tailings impoundment is perched right on the bank of the Sanpoil River, and the Sanpoil flows through the heart of our reservation."

Don Hurst, Colville Tribes
Environmental Trust Department



Hardrock mine operators need water rights, and that has proved problematic for the mine proposed on Buckhorn Mountain. Current claim owner Kinross Gold wants to develop an underground mine on Buckhorn. Rather than processing ore on site, Kinross intends to truck the ore 60 miles to the town of Republic, just north of the Colville Reservation. The plan was approved by the Forest Service in 2007, but it is being challenged.

The Colvilles view the situation with hard irony. "We opposed aspects of a proposal 30 miles from our reservation. Now they decide to bring the worst aspect of it right to our doorstep," said Don Hurst of the tribes' Environmental Trust Department. "The tailings impoundment is perched right on the bank of the Sanpoil River, and the Sanpoil flows through the heart of our reservation."

The Sanpoil, which joins the Columbia River at Lake Roosevelt, offers some of eastern Washington's best fishing for kokanee salmon and red band and cutthroat trout. "The Sanpoil has beautiful canyons, good pools and riffles, and produces nice fish," said fly-fisherman Tim Coleman, of Republic. He agrees with the Colville Tribes that the new Kinross plan isn't environmentally friendly. "Actually, I'd say it's more like a double whammy." From hunting and fishing perspectives, at least, that seems like the case.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Spearfish Canyon

Gold mining in South Dakota's Black Hills dates to the Custer expedition of 1874. The lure of gold drew thousands of prospectors and miners to the frontier town of Deadwood. For a century, numerous mines dotted the Hills, including one extensive mine operated by Homestake.

In the 1980s the nature of Black Hills gold mining changed when four open-pit, cyanide-leach mines began operating in Lawrence County. Homestake also started open-pit mining in the town of Lead. The cumulative impacts of the mines on hunting and fishing in the Black Hills are difficult to quantify, but a few incidents related to water quality from the 1990s are telling.

"Public lands harbor important fish and wildlife habitat, including blue-ribbon trout streams and places for antelope, sage grouse and mule deer. I believe that hardrock mining should be done sensibly, in a way that protects these species and their habitats, so that future sportsmen will have quality hunting and fishing experiences to share with their children."

Tony Dean,
Tony Dean Outdoors, Inc.

In 1992 the *Rapid City Journal* reported that acidic runoff from the Richmond Hill gold mine tainted a small stream that feeds into the popular Squaw Creek. A few months later, the newspaper issued a bleak update: "Biologist Tom Chapman of the state Game, Fish and Parks Department tested a 2,500 meter stretch of Squaw Creek just below the mine. ... He estimates there were 10,000 fewer brook trout in that stretch of Squaw Creek than there should have been." In 1994, heavy rains flooded the mine's containment facility. "The slow recovery of aquatic life in Squaw Creek from contamination at the Richmond Hill Mine was almost wiped out by a storm-related acid spill," the *Journal* reported. Similar disasters plagued the Gilt Edge and Wharf mines, including leaks and spills that resulted in bird and fish die offs.

Even with Lawrence County's long mining tradition, its citizens had enough. In 1996, they passed an initiative declaring 48,000 acres around Spearfish Canyon off limits to surface metal mining, in part to save Spearfish Creek's trout and conserve nationally ranked fisheries. In 1997, however, a federal judge struck down the ban due to the 1872 Mining Law. In 1998 the Black Hills saw another fish disaster.

A drop in gold prices achieved, at least temporarily, what the attempted ban could not. Today only the Wharf Mine is still producing gold. The others are in various states of "remediation" and "reclamation." Gilt Edge, following bankruptcy, is a Superfund site.

Besides leading the Spearfish mining ban effort, Dick Fort of Lead has fished Spearfish Creek for years. "It's not the prime trout fishing it used to be, but it's still pretty good, and Squaw and Annie Creeks have now come back." However, with the price of bullion at a record high, bets are off that the Black Hills gold mining reprieve, or the reprieve for its fish, will last.





WYOMING

Western Black Hills

“Most people don’t realize it, but Wyoming’s best hunting is in the northeast part of the state. The west side – Yellowstone, the Tetons – gets the publicity, but half of all the whitetail deer harvested come from the corner around the Black Hills. In fact a fifth of all deer, mule and whitetail, come from northeast Wyoming and a third of all pronghorn. The Black Hills has a burgeoning elk herd, and the hunt is so popular it’s almost impossible to draw a tag. There is also good sharp-tail, sage grouse and turkey hunting.”

Joe Sandrini, wildlife biologist with the Wyoming Fish and Game Department, offered that robust review. He credited “a good mix

of habitat types,” including sagebrush, short grass prairie, ponderosa pine and deciduous forest, as responsible for the abundant wildlife. He was less enthusiastic about coalbed methane development to the west in Johnson and Campbell counties and gas and coal activity to the south, but “So far we’ve been spared that.”

Daly Edmunds,
Wyoming Wildlife Federation

“Hunters, and all the public, need to get more engaged to ensure that mining is balanced with needs of wildlife.”



However, renewed interest in uranium is not confined to the Southwest. Exploration is focused on the south end of the Black Hills and in western South Dakota and Wyoming. Dreams of gold are stirring on national forest land in the Black Hills, as well. Sandrini finds the possible consequences worrisome. He ticked off the usual list – roads, power lines, fences, traffic, habitat fragmentation, increased human pressures and disturbances – that go with uranium mining. “When mining comes in, fences go up. Access is a huge issue, because we don’t have that much public land in eastern Wyoming,” he said.

Uranium would be mined via the “in situ” leaching process, where chemicals are injected into the ground to dissolve uranium. This is especially worrisome in northeast Wyoming due to the presence of naturally occurring selenium and arsenic, which would be extracted with the uranium. Both are toxic to wildlife.

Daly Edmunds of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation points out that any new uranium or gold development in this area must be considered cumulatively with all the energy development around the region. She confirmed that sportsmen are starting to understand the need to speak up for places they care about. “Hunters, and all the public, need to get more engaged to ensure that mining is balanced with needs of wildlife.”

ALASKA

Berners Bay

Berners Bay in southeast Alaska represents the best of the state's unblemished splendor. Sandy beaches and estuaries are lined with old-growth Sitka spruce and hemlock. In this primeval forest, wildlife – bear, moose, wolves, mountain goats, eagles, whales, seals, sea lions – are framed by snow-capped mountains. Though only 45 miles from Juneau, Berners Bay is roadless and wild and yet easily accessed by boats fishing for coho and sockeye salmon in one of the most spectacular settings imaginable.

In the 1980s, Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp. developed plans for a gold mine on Tongass National Forest land on the northwest shore of Berners Bay. The so-called Kensington Mine would encompass a road and a port terminal. Most significantly, Coeur d'Alene's proposal included dumping a projected 4.5 million tons of tailings waste into Slate Lake, an action that would render the lake lifeless until restoration could occur.

“We have an explosion of mining activity going on in Alaska in places like Berners Bay. We need to make sure that we have solid laws that protect these special places and the fish and wildlife they harbor. Even more important, we have to have the ability to say ‘no’ if the mine would put these resources at risk.”

Tim Bristol,
Trout Unlimited

Although the Clean Water Act prohibits dumping mine wastes into public waters, the Army Corps of Engineers approved Coeur d'Alene's application for an exception. Several conservation organizations filed a lawsuit challenging this decision even as mine construction began. They noted that Coeur d'Alene had filed a conventional dry-land tailings disposal plan for Kensington that had been previously approved. The dry tailings would be more stable and less threatening to the bay in the event of an impoundment failure. Coeur d'Alene dropped this plan, however, due to unfavorable economics.

In spring 2007 the court ruled against Coeur d'Alene and called on it to formulate another tailings disposal plan. The company appealed, but in November the court upheld its decision.

In January 2008 Coeur d'Alene submitted a new permit application to the Tongass National Forest to develop a dry “paste” tailings facility for its operation. The road plans have been tabled, and the port facility will be developed outside Berners Bay. Trout Unlimited's Tim Bristol says halting the road plan is particularly significant as the road would have crossed productive coho and sockeye streams. “With more limited access, hunters have to work harder to get into this country, and it's still amazing hunting.”



CONCLUSION

Mining has adversely impacted fish and wildlife habitat and our opportunities to hunt and fish for more than 136 years. Past, present and future mining operations continue to threaten the outdoor heritage passed down to us from those sportsmen conservation leaders who came before us. The legacy of abandoned mines can be seen all across the West. The fabled Blackfoot River in Montana was nearly lost when more than a century's worth of toxic mining waste breached the Mike Horse Dam.

Mining companies have become much more responsible in this century but still adversely impact fish and wildlife habitat. Take the examples of mercury-laden duck populations in the Great Salt Lake in Utah, suction dredging on the Upper Illinois River in Oregon, and fish kills on Spearfish Creek in South Dakota, and it is apparent that mining still has drastic effects on fish and wildlife populations.



With hardrock mineral prices at all-time highs, mining claims on public lands have increased dramatically. Local hunters and anglers worry about the consequences of uranium mining in Arizona near the Grand Canyon, gold mining in the Okanogan Highlands of Washington, and a gold mine on the edge of Berners Bay in Alaska.

Mining is an appropriate use of public lands. Sensible reform of the 1872 Mining Law will ensure that our outdoor hunting and fishing heritage will continue to be enjoyed by future generations. Sensible reform should include the following provisions:

- Recover a fair royalty from all minerals taken from public lands and establish an abandoned mine cleanup fund that includes fish and wildlife habitat restoration
- End mining's priority status on public lands
- Give discretion to public land managers to permit mining where appropriate
- Allow "Good Samaritans" reclamation incentives and common-sense liability relief
- Prohibit the patenting or sale of public lands under this law to keep public land in public hands

National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, along with hundreds of other sportsmen's organizations across the country, call on Congress to update the antiquated 1872 Mining Law.

SPORTSMEN SUPPORT SENSIBLE REFORM OF THE 1872 MINING LAW

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
B.A.S.S.
Berkley Conservation Institute
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
Campfire Club of America
Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Conservation Force
Dallas Safari Club
Federation of Fly Fishers
International Game Fish Association
International Hunter Education Association
Izaak Walton League of America
Mustad & Son (USA), Inc.
National Wildlife Federation
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion – The Hunters Institute
Pope and Young Club
Pure Fishing
Quality Deer Management Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Wildlife Society
Top Brass
Trout Unlimited
Wildlife Management Institute

STATE ORGANIZATIONS

ARIZONA

Arizona Conservation Partnership
Arizona Council - Trout Unlimited
Arizona Wildlife Federation
Arizona Wildlife Foundation

CALIFORNIA

California Council – Trout Unlimited
Izaak Walton League of America – California Division
South Coast Chapter – Trout Unlimited

COLORADO

Cherry Creek Anglers – Trout Unlimited Chapter #474
Collegiate Peak Anglers Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Colorado Council – Trout Unlimited
Colorado Wildlife Federation
Colorado Wildlife Society
Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited (Wild Trout)
Ferdinand Hayden Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Five Rivers Chapter – Trout Unlimited
San Luis Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Sisters on the Fly

FLORIDA

The Florida Wildlife Federation

GEORGIA

Georgia Council – Trout Unlimited
Gold Rush Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Oconee River Chapter – Trout Unlimited

IDAHO

Ada County Fish & Game League
Backcountry Horsemen
Blackfoot River Bowmen
Bonner County Sportsmen
Deer Hunters of Idaho
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Hemingway Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Idaho B.A.S.S. Federation
Idaho B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Idaho Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Idaho Conservation Officers Association
Idaho Council – Trout Unlimited
Idaho Falconers Association
Idaho Houndsmen Association
Idaho Mule Deer Foundation
Idaho Rifle & Pistol Association
Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council
Idaho State Bow Hunters
Idaho Steelhead and Salmon Unlimited
Idaho Traditional Bow Hunters
Idaho Trappers Association
Magic Valley Fly Fishers
National Wild Turkey Federation

North Idaho Tree Hound Association
Pheasants Forever
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Safari Club International - Idaho Chapter
Safari Club International - Treasure Valley Chapter
Snake River Cutthroats
South East Idaho Fly Fishers
South East Idaho Mule Deer Foundation

ILLINOIS

Illinois Council – Trout Unlimited

KANSAS

Kansas Wildlife Federation

LOUISIANA

Bayou State Bowhunters Association
Iberia Rod & Gun Club
Jefferson Rod & Gun Club
Louisiana Wildlife Federation

MAINE

Maine Council – Trout Unlimited

MASSACHUSETTS

Environmental League of Massachusetts

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Conservation Federation
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association

MISSOURI

Conservation Federation of Missouri

MONTANA

Anaconda Sportsmen's Club
Big Blackfoot Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Billing's Rod & Gun Club
Bitter Root Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Dawson County Rod & Gun Club
Flathead Valley Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Flathead Wildlife, Inc.
George Grant Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Great Falls Archery Club
Helena Hunters and Anglers
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
Joe Brooks Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Kottencai Valley Trout Club
Libby Rod and Gun Club
Madison Gallatin Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Montana Council – Trout Unlimited
Montana River Action Network
Montana Wildlife Federation
Public Lands & Water Access Association
Russell County Sportsmen
Snowy Mountain Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Skyline Sportsmen's Association
Triple-M-Outfitters

West Slope Chapter – Trout Unlimited

NEBRASKA

Nebraska Wildlife Federation

NEVADA

Elko County Conservation Association
Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
Nevada Council - Trout Unlimited
Nevada Waterfowl Association
Nevada Wildlife Federation
The Carson Valley Chukar Club
The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
The Fraternity of Desert Bighorn
The Ormsby Sportsmen's Association
Truckee River Flyfishers

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Council – Trout Unlimited

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Council – Trout Unlimited
New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
Brittany Club
Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen
Ducks Unlimited
Fisheries Society
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep – New Mexico Chapter
German Shorthair Club
Las Cruces Chapter Turkey Federation
Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers
Mule Deer Foundation
New Mexico Council - Trout Unlimited
New Mexico Shooting Sports Association
New Mexico Sportsmen, Inc.
New Mexico Trout
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
Organ Mountain Bowmen
Picacho Gun Club
Quail Unlimited
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen
Truchas Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Wild Turkey Sportsmen Association
Wildlife Society – New Mexico Chapter

NEW YORK

Environmental Advocates of New York
New York Council – Trout Unlimited
New York State Conservation Council
Sportsmen's Club of Northern Westchester, Inc.

NORTH CAROLINA

Headwaters, Ltd.
North Carolina Council – Trout Unlimited
North Carolina Wildlife Federation

NORTH DAKOTA

Barnes County Wildlife Club
Bottineau County Wildlife Club
Kindred Wildlife Club
Lewis and Clark Sportsmen's Club
North Dakota Wildlife Federation
Red River Area Sportsmen's Club
Stutsman County Wildlife Federation
Tewaukon Rod & Gun Club

OHIO

Columbiana County Federation of Conservation Clubs
Emerald – Necklace Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Ohio Council – Trout Unlimited
Ohio Sportsmen

OKLAHOMA

Indian Nations Council of Oklahoma – Trout Unlimited

OREGON

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Central Oregon Fly Fishers
Clackamas Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Elliot Chapter – Trout Unlimited
McKenzie Flyfishers
McKenzie – Upper Willamette Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Native Fish Society
Northwest Guides and Anglers Association
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Ochoco Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Oregon Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Oregon Council – Trout Unlimited
Oregon Division – Izaak Walton League of America
Oregon Trout
Tualatin Valley Chapter – Trout Unlimited

PENNSYLVANIA

Arrowhead Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Caldwell Creek Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Hokendauqua Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Iron Furnace Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Pennsylvania Council – Trout Unlimited
Stanley Cooper Sr. Chapter – Trout Unlimited

RHODE ISLAND

The Environmental Council of Rhode Island

SOUTH DAKOTA

High Plains Wildlife Association
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
Sportsmen's Club of Brown County
Tony Dean Outdoors, Inc.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Council – Trout Unlimited

UTAH

Utah Waterfowl Association
Utah Wildlife Federation

WASHINGTON

Bellevue-Issaquah Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Elliot Bay Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Icicle Outfitters & Guides, Inc.
Inland NW Hunting and Fishing Conservation Coalition
Northshore Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Rainshadow Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Seattle Chapter – Izaak Walton League of America
Washington Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Washington Council – Federation of Fly Fishers
Washington Council – Trout Unlimited
Washington Wildlife Federation

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Council – Trout Unlimited

WISCONSIN

Aldo Leopold Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Almond Rod and Gun Club
American Wild Turkey Hunting Dog Association
Antigo Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Ashland County
Ashland/Bayfield County Sportsmen Association
Association Conservation Clubs – Trempealeau County
Augusta Area Sportmen's Club
Badger Dachshund Club, Inc.
Badger Fishermen's League
Bangor Rod & Gun Club
Beaver Dam Conservationists, Inc.
Berlin Conservation Club
Big 4+ Sportsman Club
Bloomer Rod & Gun Club
Boscobel Sportsmen's Club
Brown County Conservation Alliance
Brule River Sportsmen's Club
Butte Des Morts Conservation Club
Calumet County Conservation Alliance
Carter Creek Sportsmen's Club
Cataract Sportsman Club
Central St. Croix Rod & Gun Club
Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors Association, Inc.
Central Wisconsin Shoot to Retrieve
Central Wisconsin Sportsmen's Club
Challenge the Outdoors, Inc.
Chippewa Rod & Gun Club
Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance
Columbia County Sporting Alliance (Pardeeville)
Columbia County Sporting Alliance (Portage)
Columbus Sportsman's Association, Inc.
Coon Valley Conservation Club, Inc.
Crystal Lake Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Dane County Conservation League
Daniel Boone Conservation League, Inc.

De Pere Sportsman's Club

Delton Sportmen Club
Doctari Longlines
Door County Fish Farm & Game Club
Door County Rod & Gun Club
Dousman Gun Club
Dunn County Fish & Game Association
Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club
Farmers & Sportsmen's Club
Fin 'N' Feather Sportsmen's Club
Flambeau Area Sportman Club
Florence County Forestry & Parks Department
Forest County Association of Lakes, Inc.
Forest County Walleye Association
Fort Atkinson Wisconsin Conservation Club
Friends of MacKenzie Center
Friend of the Brule River & Forest
Globe Conservation Club
Great Lakes Sport Fishermen Ozaukee Chapter
Green Bay Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Green Bay Duck Hunters Association
Green Bay Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
Grellton Conservation Club
Hayward Rod & Gun Club
Hope Rod and Gun Club, Inc.
Horicon Marsh Sportsmen's Club (Mayville Gun Club)
Horicon Rod and Gun Club, Inc.
Hudson Rod and Gun Club
Jefferson Sportsmen's Club
Kiel Fish and Game, Inc.
Koenig's Conservation Club
Lake Poygan Sportsmen's Club
Lakeshore Fishing Club
Lakeview Rod and Gun Club
Little Wolf River Houndsmen's Club
Madison Area Dachshund Club
Manitowoc County Fish & Game Protective Association
Manitowoc County Coon Hunters
Millston-Knapp Sportsmen's Club
Milwaukee Police Officers Conservation/Sportsman Club
Milwaukee Casting Club
Monches Fish & Game Club
Mosinee Sportsmen's Alliance
Northeast Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
Nekossa Conservation League
North Bristol Sportsman's
Oakland Conservation Club
Oconomowoc Sportsman's Club, Inc.
Oconto County Sportsman's Alliance
Ococh Creeks Chapter – Trout Unlimited
Osseo Rod and Gun Club
Outagamie Conservation Club
Outdoor, Inc. Conservation Club
Padus Nicolet Gun Club
Pewaukee Lake Sportsmen Club
Prairie du Chien Rod and Gun Club
Racine County Conservation League, Inc.
Racine County Line Rifle Club, Inc.
Richfield Sportsmen's Club
Rio Conservation Club
Southern Clark County Sportsman's Club
Southern Milwaukee 1400 Fishing & Hunting Club

Sauk Trail Conservation Club

Shadows on the Wolf, Inc.
Shawano Gun Club, Inc.
Sheboygan Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
Sheboygan County Conservation Association
Sheboygan Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc.
Shoto Conservation Club
Slinger Sportsman Club
Smerke's Sportsmen's Club
Sparta Rod & Gun Club
Stan Pils Sportsman's League, Inc.
Star Prairie Fish & Game Association
Sturgeon for Tomorrow N Chapter
Sugar River Coon Hunters Association
Suscha-Fale Sportsmen's Club
Town of Boulder Junction Shooting Range
Trempealeau Sportsman's Club
Triangle Sportsmen's Club
Tri-County Sportswomen's Club
Twin City Rod & Gun Club
Walleyes for Tomorrow, Inc.
Watershed Watchers
Watertown Conservation Club
Waukesha County Conservation Alliance
West Bend Barton Sportsman Club
Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd.
Wilderness Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Wildlife Society – Wisconsin Chapter
Willow Acres, Inc.
Wilton Rod & Gun Club
Wings Over Wisconsin
Winnebago Conservation Club
WinnebagoLand Conservation Alliance
Wisconsin Association of Beagle Clubs (#100)
Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs
Wisconsin Association of Sporting Dog Club
Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association
Wisconsin Coon Hunters Association
Wisconsin Council of Sportfishing Organization
Wisconsin Council – Trout Unlimited
Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association
Wisconsin Deer Hunters, Inc.
Wisconsin Federation of Great Lake Sport Fishing Clubs
Wisconsin House Outdoorsmen Club
Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructor Association
Wisconsin Muzzle Loading Association, Inc.
Wisconsin Rifle and Pistol Association
Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society
Wisconsin Taxidermist Association
Wisconsin Trappers Association, Inc.
Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Inc.
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Yahara Fishing Club

WYOMING

Wyoming Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Wyoming Council – Trout Unlimited
Wyoming Wildlife Federation



www.sensiblemining.org