



# EARTHWORKS JOURNAL

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# EARTHWORKS Observations: Some Things Change

*“Iron was once more valuable than gold. One of the most important technological revolutions of human history was triggered by the transformation of iron from a rare to a common or working metal.”*

Some things change—as this excerpt from *The Substance of Civilization* by Stephen L. Sass reminds us. And some things stay the same. Since the beginning of human life we have sought to use our material environment to survive and thrive. We dig, we experiment, we innovate and we create. We go as far as to name historical eras after the materials that were dominant—the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age.

Today our society is defined not only by the materials that are central to our lives but also the impacts that result from digging and processing these materials, and what we do with them in the end. In an intensively industrialized world, with almost 6 billion people, it matters that we take cradle to grave responsibility for minerals and materials—from when we extract materials from the earth to when we return them to the environment. Updating this concept, the architect William McDonough and the chemist Michael Braungart have called for cradle-to-cradle responsibility, designing products so that they don't enter the waste stream or the environment. In his book *Materials Matter*, the academic and activist Kenneth Geiser calls for a new, sustainable materials policy. In a Worldwatch Report, *Scrapping Mining Dependence*, Payal Sampat asks “why do we spend so much energy trying to find new underground mines if so much metal lies in cities and landfills?” Sampat, now at EARTHWORKS, closes her report by asking “whether ours will be the age that at long last puts harmful mining practices on the scrap heap of history?”

At a mining industry conference organized by CEOs of the world's biggest mining companies I offered the following observation: “Mining is just one of a number of methods available to society to meet its need for metals and other materials. Why are we not asking ourselves the following questions—what's the most sustainable, most responsible, and most efficient way for society to meet its metals and materials needs?”

EARTHWORKS' challenge, and our vision, is to make this an age of *materials-responsibility*. An age in which each of us, whether a consumer, citizen, investor or insurer, retailer of products that use mined material, or government or agency official takes responsibility for sourcing, using and re-using the earth's resources wisely, cleanly and judiciously. And materials responsibility starts where we begin to mine, drill or dig the earth's surface.

Mary Mitchell lives in Sandpoint, Idaho. A mining company wants to dig a massive mine under the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area near Sandpoint—and they want to dump the tailings waste in an unlined pile near the Clark Fork River threatening clean water, the scenic beauty of the area, endangered grizzly bear populations and trout. This is not a place for a mine and the people in Sandpoint know it—as do the vast majority of business leaders in the area. Mary's question is this—is this the best way for society to meet its need for silver? Is it responsible, sustainable or efficient? Is it wise? Does society need this silver?

**On the cover:**  
A deadly mercury spill last year led to widespread protest by Peruvian campesinos, resulting in a suspension of Newmont's exploration permit for Cerro Quilish, a sacred mountain and key water source for the area.  
(Full story on page 8)

Editor: Kimberlee Dinn  
Design: Cavich Creative LLC



And what about the community of Tambogrande, Peru—where an open-pit gold mine is being proposed? The mine is so big that it would swallow up the town in the heart of the most agriculturally productive valley in Peru. Is an open-pit mine at Tambogrande, a mine that would literally eliminate the town, really the best way for society to meet its needs for gold?

It's in communities like Sandpoint, Tambogrande and dozens of others around the world that we will begin to take the first steps toward an era of *materials responsibility*.

We are beginning to see some important first steps. Communities around the world, who are impacted by gold mines make a public call for responsible mining. Many of them join together as part of the "No Dirty Gold" campaign to call on jewelry and high-tech retailers to commit to responsible sourcing of metals. On Valentine's Day they launch the campaign and hand out 10,000 postcards in Washington D.C., New York, Boston and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) making news across the U.S. and around the world. They are soon joined by communities in Ghana, Peru and other places.

A world-famous jewelry retailer, Tiffany & Co., calls for responsible sourcing of the gold, silver, platinum and diamonds used in its jewelry and calls for protecting the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area from the Rock Creek mine. The jewelry trade association, Jewelers of America, with 10,000 members, states publicly that it wants a dialogue with organizations like EARTHWORKS and Oxfam to seek solutions.

A consumer seeks out a way to recycle a cell phone. EARTHWORKS launches a cell-phone recycling program for its members and the public. In the state of Maine, Dell and HP support legislation backed by the Natural Resource Council of Maine to create a mandatory electronics take-back system. And an entrepreneur seeks to create the first gold bar derived solely from gold recycled from circuit boards.

First steps and important steps. Over-time these individual actions and commitments begin to form a virtuous and virtual web of mutually reinforcing momentum, leverage and incentives. And often, each action creates new, unforeseen opportunities.

Things change, people, society and organizations adapt. Often these changes and adaptations are simply ways to protect core attributes, values and fundamental resources—the things that really matter. Tiffany & Co. maintains its sparkling reputation and brand integrity by adapting to new realities and making a commitment to responsible sourcing. Mineral Policy Center builds upon its core commitment to solid research, policy work and direct support to communities by changing its name to EARTHWORKS to reach new audiences and send a clear message about its purpose.

As a human society we will continue to draw resources from the earth for our survival, well being, and enjoyment. We will continue to dig, probe, quarry, shovel, and drill the earth and its resources and find new materials and new uses for existing materials. But there is growing evidence that we are beginning to alter our views as to how this should be done and under what conditions. And there are signs that a new ethic of *materials responsibility* is beginning to take hold for communities, the business sector, and governments.

Steve D'Esposito, President

EARTHWORKS is built upon the bedrock of 15 years of leading policy and research. We work to defend people and communities and protect special places that should be left as they are—undisturbed. We promote the idea that when as a society we do decide to dig into the earth's surface, its lithosphere, to extract gold, oil or other minerals and materials, we do it right. And we have a responsibility to process, use and re-use these materials wisely and safely. The more we re-use and recycle materials, the better it is for communities and the earth.



Outside of town, the U.S. Government practically gives public lands away to mining interests for as little as 84¢ an acre, and gets nothing in return.

# Who Owns the West?

ON THE 132<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE 1872 Mining Law, EARTHWORKS, along with state and local partners in the West, launched a campaign to protect clean water, communities and our natural treasures from irresponsible mining policies and practices. This new campaign, called *Westerners for Responsible Mining*, is an alliance of western communities, state, regional and national organizations that cherish America's rural communities, landscapes and resources.

to data and maps documenting the sweetheart deals available to the mining industry and the threats to water resources, communities and ecosystems. The website generated widespread press coverage. You can visit the website at: [www.ewg.org/mining](http://www.ewg.org/mining)

*The interactive website reveals... “...one out of every 11 acres of public land is open to mining and that millions of acres of public lands are being given away to the mining industry for rock-bottom prices – in some cases as little as 84 cents an acre.”*

Photo courtesy of Joe Rehana, Crested Butte Mountain Resort



Land in town might sell for over \$500,000 an acre.

**CRESTED BUTTE: Phelps Dodge paid just \$875 for 155 acres of prime real estate in this Colorado ski town – now, thanks to the outdated 1872 Mining Law, they are free to build a mine or sell to the highest bidder.**

Allen Rosenfeld, the campaign director described the campaign this way: “Ranchers, farmers, scientists, business leaders, conservationists and community leaders have joined together in this campaign to put common sense reforms in place and end the abuses caused by the outdated 1872 Mining Law.”

To coincide with the launch of *Westerners for Responsible Mining*, the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a campaign member, released a new investigative website, entitled “Who Owns the West?” The website details the widespread giveaway of our public lands to multinational mining companies and gives citizens, journalists and policy-makers access

In April, the community of Crested Butte, Colorado became the latest victim of the 1872 Mining Law. Citizens of Crested Butte, a resort town known for its ski slopes and natural beauty, discovered that 155 acres of the pristine mountain that overlooks the town was sold to the Phelps Dodge Mining Company for \$875! Under the Mining Law, mining companies can purchase public land for \$5 an acre—despite the fact that nearby land can sell for over \$500,000 an acre. Phelps Dodge can now build a mine on the mountain without an environmental impact statement or sell the land to the highest bidder for mountainside real estate. The 1872 Mining Law should be reformed so that what happened to the citizens of Crested Butte cannot happen to other communities in the West.

For news about the latest campaign activities and to learn more about *Westerners for Responsible Mining*, please visit [www.bettermines.org](http://www.bettermines.org). 

# Westerners for Responsible Mining—Community Voices

## Engineers take a stand for public safety

Three mining experts who warned New Mexico that a huge waste-rock pile at the Molycorp mine poses a threat to the village of Questa have resigned from overseeing plans to stabilize the site.

In their July 2, 2004 resignation letter, the geotechnical engineers state that a committee which includes state and Molycorp officials has given them incomplete and incorrect information about plans to stabilize the waste pile. They affirm their legal obligation “to hold paramount the health, safety and welfare of the public.”

In their report last year, the engineers concluded the pile was shifting about 2 inches per month; heavy rain could trigger a catastrophic “flow slide” of rock down the canyon. The energy generated by dropping 2,000 feet down the gulch could carry the waste pile “to the mouth of the canyon and possibly beyond”. Questa is at the mouth of the canyon.

Brian Shields, director of Amigos Bravos and EARTHWORKS New Mexico partner, is concerned about the resignations. “I thought that by having this independent body reviewing everything, we would have some independent checks and balances” Shields said. “By them resigning, I’m not sure how we move forward.”

For more information, visit:  
[www.amigobravos.org](http://www.amigobravos.org)

## Libby: New film chronicles the worst case of community-wide exposure to a toxic substance in U.S. history.

With a true story that unfolds like a Hollywood thriller, *Libby, Montana* chronicles what the EPA calls the worst case of community-wide exposure to a toxic substance in U.S. history.

Through its Zonolite subsidiary, multi-national corporation W.R. Grace employed residents of the bucolic mountain town of Libby,

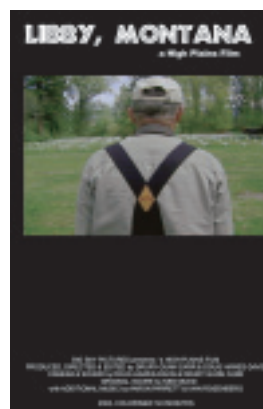


Montana to mine and process vermiculite. Used widely in products from home insulation to potting soil, what W. R. Grace and government officials knew — but failed to reveal to its workers or the citizens of Libby — was that the vermiculite dust, which coated nearly everything in the town contained a particularly lethal form of asbestos.

Nearly 1500 people in the small town of Libby (pop. 4,500) have been diagnosed with asbestos-related lung disease, and the U.S. Public Health Service estimates that approximately one third of the population has some type of lung abnormality. Asbestos exposure may still be occurring throughout the town — in homes, schools, playgrounds, and yards.

High Plains Films: [www.highplainsfilms.org](http://www.highplainsfilms.org)

Since the mid-1970s the Molycorp Mine has been dumping waste at the top of a steep canyon called Goat Hill Gulch. The waste pile is moving approximately 2 inches per month; engineers fear a catastrophe in Questa, NM (just 3.5 miles away).



## What advance reviews are saying about *Libby, Montana*:

“Emotionally gut-wrenching...To call this film a sprawling and ambitious documentary is an understatement. One can hardly avoid feeling like two hours isn’t long enough to devote to these people who gave their lives to the company mine.” **Missoulian**

# Consumers Say "NO" to Dirty Gold

## Sign the pledge.

"I support the No Dirty Gold campaign to end destructive gold mining practices. I call on retailers and manufacturers of gold jewelry, electronics, and other goods to work to ensure that the gold in their products was not produced at the expense of local communities, workers, and the environment. I demand that the global mining industry provide retailers and consumers an alternative to dirty gold."

ARMED WITH VALENTINE CARDS AND DRESSED IN colorful sandwich boards, "No Dirty Gold" activists were on a mission in February: to educate consumers about gold mining and enlist their support in cleaning up one of the world's dirtiest industries. The Valentine's message "Don't Tarnish Your Love with Dirty Gold," got people's attention! In downtown Boston and Washington DC, activists stood outside busy subway stations. In New York City, the venue was 5th Avenue, home to famous jewelry stores, including Cartier, Bulgari, Harry Winston, and Piaget. And students on about 20 U.S. campuses educated their classmates with similar actions leading up to Valentine's Day.

In Nevada, the Western Shoshone Defense Project used the launch to educate people about gold mining operations affecting their lands. In Kyrgyzstan, campaign allies handed out Russian Valentine cards in downtown Bishkek. Students and community activists in Ghana gathered at the University of Cape Coast to learn about human rights abuses linked to mining operations and impacts on poor, rural communities.


The campaign, a joint initiative of EARTHWORKS, Oxfam America, and community partners also released *Dirty Metals: Mining, Communities and the Environment*. The report details the massive pollution, health effects, worker dangers and, in some cases, human rights abuses that have become hallmarks of gold and metals mining worldwide.

The campaign has received significant press attention, even winning the prestigious Achievement in Media Relations from the National Resource Council of America. Over 100 media outlets ran stories about the launch, including CNN headline news and NPR. "If you are planning to give your loved one a golden gift for Valentine's Day this year — think twice," stated the Inter Press Service News Agency.

Nearly 8,000 consumer activists have signed the "No Dirty Gold" pledge in the recent months since the campaign launch. The campaign was bolstered by Tiffany and Co.'s public opposition to a mine proposed in the Cabinet Mountain wilderness area near Sand Point, Idaho. Michael Kowalski, Chairman and CEO of Tiffany's, said his company is motivated by consumer demand for environmentally and socially responsible metals. (See article on pg. 10.) "The campaign is just getting started," said Payal Sampat, the International Campaign director, "EARTHWORKS, Oxfam, Rainforest Action Network, Amnesty International, Green Peace and others are getting a positive response from jewelry and high-tech retailers whom we've asked to act more responsibly."

Jewelers of America, a national association of more than 10,000 jewelry retailers, issued a statement in July 2004 endorsing the long-term objectives of the "No Dirty Gold" campaign. In this statement, JA President and CEO Matthew A. Runci said, "We look forward to working together[...] to assure that the materials used to produce jewelry products are obtained in ways that are environmentally and socially responsible."

Take the on-line consumer pledge by visiting: [www.nodirtygold.org](http://www.nodirtygold.org). Or, sign and return the pledge card. Your voice is important!

**The more you know, the less gold glows!** 



Activists hand out cards in downtown DC on Valentines Day!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive email action alerts from the No Dirty Gold campaign.  
 I would like to receive email action alerts from EARTHWORKS.



Cut along dotted line and mail to Earthworks. Thanks for your support!



# “No Dirty Gold”—Community Voices

This Mother’s Day, the No Dirty Gold campaign honored the work of extraordinary women whose communities have been harmed by gold mining. Here are some of their stories.

## Ioana Ciura Rosia Montana, Romania

“Rosia Montana impresses every visitor with its serene, dream-like beauty, the warm and calm ways of the people living here, the ‘motzi’ people of the Transylvanian mountains whose history goes back more than 2000 years,” says Ioana Ciura, a mother of two.

The Rosia Montana valley is threatened by a proposal to build Europe’s largest open-pit gold mine, which would displace more than 2000 people, many of them subsistence farmers. There are serious concerns about the siting and structure of the tailings dam that, if it were to fail, would release toxic waste into the Abrud River. “If the valley is replaced by a poisonous cyanide lake and an open mine pit, what will happen to the communities that depend on this land?” asks Ioana.

Ioana and others are determined to preserve their land and way of life. “Like our ancestors, we have to take arms to defend ourselves. And our best arms are the love for our land and our determination to never give up what is the birthright of future generations. All the gold in the world is not worth the irreversible destruction that such a large-scale mining project would create.”

## Mary and Carrie Dann Western Shoshone Nation

Western Shoshone sisters Mary and Carrie Dann, know all too well the impacts of modern gold mining. Nearly 10 percent of the world’s gold, and 64 percent of U.S. production, comes from Western Shoshone lands. The government has handed over huge tracts of Shoshone lands to mining companies, such as Newmont, Placer Dome, Barrick, and Kennecott, and under the 1872 Mining Law, corporations do not have to pay a penny in royalties to the Shoshone or the U.S. public.

Among the Shoshone’s concerns is the rapid pumping of groundwater for mining operations in an arid region. Carrie explains that the Shoshone see the earth as their mother, “that which gives us all life. Do we know what the

earth mother is saying when they are draining her vital liquids? And what are the future generations saying to us as we do these things?”

Carrie and Mary’s strong beliefs guide them as they clash with mining companies and the U.S. government. “Our teachings tell us that the Creator placed us here as caretakers of the lands, the animals, all living things. We were placed here with a responsibility. I, and my sister Mary, live that responsibility every day of our lives.”

## Hannah Owusu-Koranteng Wassa West District, Ghana

“Gold is a part of our heritage,” explains Hannah, a mother of two from Ghana. “But, today’s large-scale mining operations are devastating rural communities and destroying livelihoods.” Known as the Gold Coast in colonial times, Ghana is Africa’s second largest producer of gold after South Africa. In recent years cyanide spills have polluted water supplies, caused fish kills, and forced many rural families to abandon their farms. “Gold has become a symbol of poverty and misery for mining-affected communities,” says Hannah.

In the 1980s the government threw open its doors to multinational companies. “Back then, I was a young woman working as an extension worker with the ministry of agriculture. I saw rural people losing land to mining operations—which is the most valuable asset for rural people! This had a profound impact on women, who play a large role in Ghana’s agricultural economy.”

“We’re not saying no to gold, or no to all mining. We’re saying no to dirty gold mining,” emphasizes Hannah.



Ioana Ciura  
[www.rosiamontana.org](http://www.rosiamontana.org)



Mary and Carrie Dann  
[www.wsdp.org](http://www.wsdp.org)



Hannah Owusu-Koranteng  
[www.wacam.org](http://www.wacam.org)





*“We are traditional fishermen, and our lives are dependent on the bay. But since Newmont started dumping tailings into the bay, it has become very hard for us to catch fish. The sea, which is our source of life, has now become a source of disaster. That is why the community calls the company a ‘Newmonster’”*

**Anwar Stirman, fisherman from Buyat Bay village**

# Communities in the News

## PERU: Cerro Quilish, Sacred Mountain Protected

The sheer scale of the Yanacocha gold mine in Cajamarca, Peru, is staggering. It is the largest gold mine in Latin America, and the second largest in the world, covering 22,000 acres.

In 2002 the mine produced 2.29 million ounces of gold at a very low cost of \$123 per ounce. Profits from this mine contributed 15 percent of the \$2.7 billion total revenue earned by its majority owner, Newmont Mining Corporation.

The abundant low-grade ore found in this area lends itself well to the cyanide heap leach method, and Yanacocha has several huge leach pads, taking over entire mountainsides for this low-cost, environmentally risky system of gold extraction. To take advantage of spiking world gold prices, Minera Yanacocha has been aggressively trying to expand the mine to include Cerro Quilish.

Community groups in the province have long opposed the expansion to Cerro Quilish, a sacred mountain and a key water source in the region. And after a 330 pound mercury spill in 2000, relations have remained tense.

Public opposition came to a head in late August and early September when Newmont began exploration activities at Quilish. Community members staged protests and

lobbied both corporate and government officials for several weeks. Following a strike by approximately 10,000 campesinos, the Peruvian government suspended Newmont's exploration permit, and Newmont has decided to not pursue the expansion.



Photo by Keiola

Buyat Bay residents have reported health problems, including skin diseases, tumors, and birth defects.

## INDONESIA: Buyat Bay Pollution Perils

In 2004, the Newmont Minahasa Raya (NMR) gold mine began closing down its operations in North Sulawesi leaving local communities in Buyat Bay and Ratatatok with a dubious legacy: long-lasting environmental damage, economic decline, and a host of health problems.

NMR was the first mine in Indonesia to use a submarine tailings disposal (STD) system, a method of waste disposal banned in many countries due to its harmful environmental and health impacts. NMR pipes its mining waste approximately ten kilometers from the open-pit and discharges it into Buyat Bay at a depth of 82 meters. Since it opened in 1996, the mine has dumped more than 4 million tons of mine waste into the bay.

The issue has been covered widely in the media after several top Newmont officials were arrested last August. After months of speculation, a panel of experts drawn from Indonesian government agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, and technical consultants concluded that sediment and fish in Buyat Bay, are contaminated with mercury and

Photo by Grufides



After thousands protested the exploration of Cerro Quilish in Peru, Newmont publicly admitted its error in not listening to the community's concerns.





Photo by Tempo Magazine



Children bathing in Buyat River, downstream from Newmont's Minahasa raya mine site.

arsenic at levels that pose a human health risk. In particular the report revealed that:

- Arsenic levels in Buyat Bay sediment are about 100 times higher than at control sites.
- Consuming fish from Buyat Bay poses a risk to adults and children.
- Mercury levels in Buyat Bay benthic organisms were approximately 10 times higher than at control sites.
- There is no protective thermocline, which Newmont's 1994 Environmental Impact Assessment asserted would function as a barrier to prevent mine wastes from spreading in the Bay.
- The panel recommended that possible arsenic poisoning be investigated, and that the impacts on marine life be monitored for the next 30 years.

**UNITES STATES: Communities Stake Their Claim to Special Places**

Last month activists in four states staked claims in an expensive subdivision, a ski area, and other popular hiking spots. Why? The groups, all members of the *Westerners for Responsible Mining Campaign*, want to inform local homeowners and others in their region that scenic areas near their property and millions of acres of recreational areas could be open to large-scale mining under the 1872 Mining Law.

"Mining doesn't belong near residential neighborhoods, yet the 1872 Mining Law leaves communities and special places vulnerable to destructive mining operations," said Mike Peterson, executive director of The Lands Council as he staked a claim in an upscale neighborhood.

"We are trying to show that people can go into a rich neighborhood that happens to be on a national forest boundary and tear things up," Petersen said.

Further north, the Idaho Conservation League staked a mining claim on 20 acres of federal land at the popular Bogus Basin ski resort.

"While our claim to the Bogus Mine is symbolic, there is a real threat upstream," said John Robison. "Under the Mining Law of 1872, a Canadian company plans to construct an open pit cyanide heap leach mine upstream of Boise near the small town of Atlanta in the headwaters of the Boise River. The mine, consisting of 500 and 600 feet deep open pits, will use toxic cyanide to extract gold. The mine is located on public land and formerly public land that has been patented."

Neither group intends to actually mine for gold, silver, copper or other minerals. They want to show just how easy it is for mining companies to get our public lands at bargain rates. By simply driving four stakes into the ground, filling out a form, and paying a filing fee of \$135, anyone can claim federal land that has not been specifically withdrawn from mining and maintain their claim for an annual \$100 fee, which only partially covers the government's cost to process the paperwork.

While staking their claims community members handed out postcards:



If you want to send an "e-card" visit [www.bettermines.org](http://www.bettermines.org)



The Lands Council staked a claim to mine 20 acres of federal land in Kootenay County across the street from an expensive subdivision. Mike Peterson said that one resident came outside and, "The guy started to freak out a little bit until we told him it was a stunt."



# Tiffany & Co. Stakes Bold Position on Responsible Mining

With an open letter in the March 24th *Washington Post*, Tiffany & Co. called for protection of an important wilderness area threatened by a silver mine as well as reform of the outdated 1872 Mining Law. This is the first time that a major jewelry company has taken such a highly visible stance calling for mining reforms, and could be an early sign of fears of consumer backlash from the destructive impacts of mining on the part of retailers of jewelry and high-tech product retailers that use gold, silver and other metals.

EARTHWORKS applauds the leadership, vision and business sensibility of Tiffany & Co. on this issue.



TIFFANY & CO.

To: Dale Bosworth  
Chief, U.S. Forest Service

Re: Preserving the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness

Dear Mr. Bosworth:

Given your previous assignment as Regional Forester in northern Montana, you know well the stark beauty of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness area, a distinctive precinct of the Kootenai National Forest. You are also familiar with the dispute over a plan to allow construction of a mine that would dig three miles of tunnels under those mountains so that copper and silver could be extracted over three decades.

Forest Service officials in the region have approved the Rock Creek project in concept despite vehement opposition by a coalition of local, regional and national conservation groups, along with local business representatives, public officials and ordinary citizens. The opponents' fears are justified.

This huge mine would discharge millions of gallons of waste water per day conveying pollutants to the Clark Fork River and ultimately into Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho, a national treasure in its own right. Vast quantities of mine tailings—a polite term for toxic sludge—would be stored in a holding facility of questionable durability. Wildlife already struggling to survive would face new perils.

Other disputes of this nature, involving public lands administered by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, are too often settled in favor of developers because statutes and departmental regulations tilt that way. The 1872 General Mining Act is a particularly egregious example. Enacted to encourage rapid development of sparsely settled regions at a very different stage in American history, this obsolete law virtually gives away public lands and the minerals under them to private interests. It remains a perverse incentive for mining in wilderness areas, near scenic watersheds, around important cold water fisheries, and in other fragile ecosystems—all of which are inappropriate for mineral development.

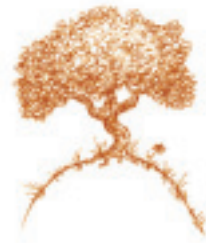
The Rock Creek proposal still faces some regulatory hurdles, as well as legal challenges in both state and federal courts. As the process unfolds, Rock Creek may well become an important icon in what I hope will be a growing national debate over responsible mining policies. That debate must take into account the reality that public land has multiple uses, and some of our most significant land should be protected from mining. This precious real estate should be available to Americans with diverse interests including hunting, fishing and hiking in unspoiled areas.

We at Tiffany & Co. understand that mining must remain an important industry. But like some other businesses benefiting from trade in precious metals, we also believe that reforms are urgently needed. Minerals should—and can—be extracted, processed and used in ways that are environmentally and socially responsible. Government and industry each has a role to play in shaping sensible measures to achieve this goal.

As this effort goes forward, I hope that we can look to the Forest Service and its sister Federal agencies for cooperation. Three years ago, you told the House subcommittee, "The Forest Service should be judged by how we leave the land...." All of us who have any influence on how public lands are used should be judged by the same criterion.

Michael J. Kowalski  
Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer  
March 24, 2004

# Oil & Gas Accountability Project Joins EARTHWORKS



**THE OIL & GAS ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT (OGAP)** will become part of EARTHWORKS on January 1st, 2005.

Communities across western North America, and around the world, are facing a new rush to drill for oil and gas—too often this rush is jeopardizing safe drinking water, clean air, community health and pristine public lands. For example, in the U.S. oil and gas corporations, with an assist from the Bush Administration, are seeking to bypass or gut environmental regulations and gain exemptions from liability for the health and environmental impacts they create. They are also seeking new subsidies to promote extraction.

In response to this growing threat, citizen activists launched OGAP to provide direct support to communities facing threats from energy development. Since 1999 OGAP has helped these communities, some of which face threats that are literally on their door-steps, hold corporations and governments accountable—and greater accountability has led to more protection for people and special places.

Our merger with OGAP will strengthen our ability to help communities on the ground and hold corporate and government officials accountable—after all, many of the communities we support face threats from metals mining, oil and gas development and coal mining. Like the community-based programs of EARTHWORKS, OGAP works to build solutions from the ground-up. As Gwen Lachelt, the OGAP director noted, “we bring together directly affected people and other concerned citizens, arm them with the information they need, help build their organizing skills and develop effective local, statewide, regional and national campaigns. With EARTHWORKS, we

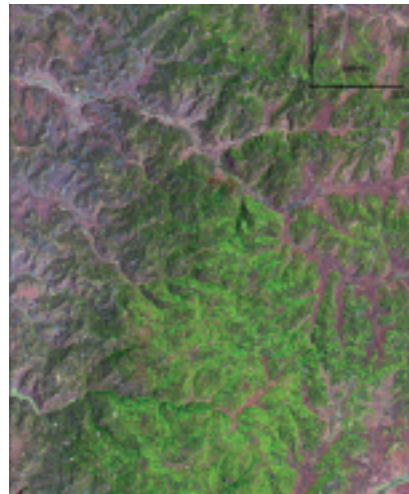


Photo by SKYTRUTH


## Espinosa Ranch - Bixler Ranch, 1989 and 2002

This aerial view provides startling evidence of the impact of Coalbed Methane development in the San Juan Basin of Colorado.

CBM drilling is typically done at a very close spacing (one well per 20 acres or less—that’s 32 or more wells per square mile), resulting in a dense network of access roads, well pads, and pipeline corridors that causes severe landscape alteration.

In the arid southwest, it’s easy to see the “footprint” on the landscape; the green vegetation of this once wild ecosystem is almost completely gone.

will unify the voices of those directly affected by oil and gas and mining and together stand up to the powerful companies that have, for too long, marginalized people and the environment.”

Here at EARTHWORKS we are proud to be joined by the OGAP team—we are joining forces to build our capacity to work with communities around the globe to prevent and reduce the impacts caused by mining, digging and drilling. 

# EARTHWORKS@home

## EARTHWORKS Introduces Cell Phone Recycling Program

EARTHWORKS has launched a cell phone recycling program so that we can all help keep toxic metals out the environment and promote re-use and recycling of metals. Did you know that there are more than 500 million used cell phones sitting in people's drawers or in our landfills!? And the EPA estimates cell phones will be thrown away at a rate of 130 million a year by 2005, equaling 65,000 tons of waste containing toxic metals!

The human health and environmental impacts of cell phone waste is grim. The EPA classifies cellular phones as hazardous waste, due to their content of lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic. If thrown in the trash, and sent to incinerators or landfills, environmental contamination can occur from combustion and leaching into soil and groundwater.

When we recycle our old cell phones we ultimately reduce the need for metals. 

### How do I donate my used cellular phone?

**You can mail it to us directly:**

**EARTHWORKS Cell Phone Recycling**

**1612 K Street NW #808**

**Washington DC 20006**

**Or visit our partner website:**

**[www.collectivegood.com](http://www.collectivegood.com) and**

**follow the three-step process.**

**Be sure to select EARTHWORKS**

**as the charity you wish to**

**help so CollectiveGood**

**knows who to credit.**

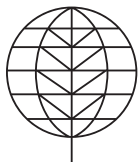


Like to help  
EARTHWORKS  
in a BIG way?

Simply go to <http://www.iGive.com/EARTHWORKS>, up to 26% of every purchase is donated to EARTHWORKS.

At [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) you get access to over 500 brand-name merchants like Barnes and Noble, Eddie Bauer, Target, Lands' End and PetSmart.

Join now at: [www.iGive.com/EARTHWORKS](http://www.iGive.com/EARTHWORKS)!



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