



# EARTHWORKS JOURNAL

SPRING 2007

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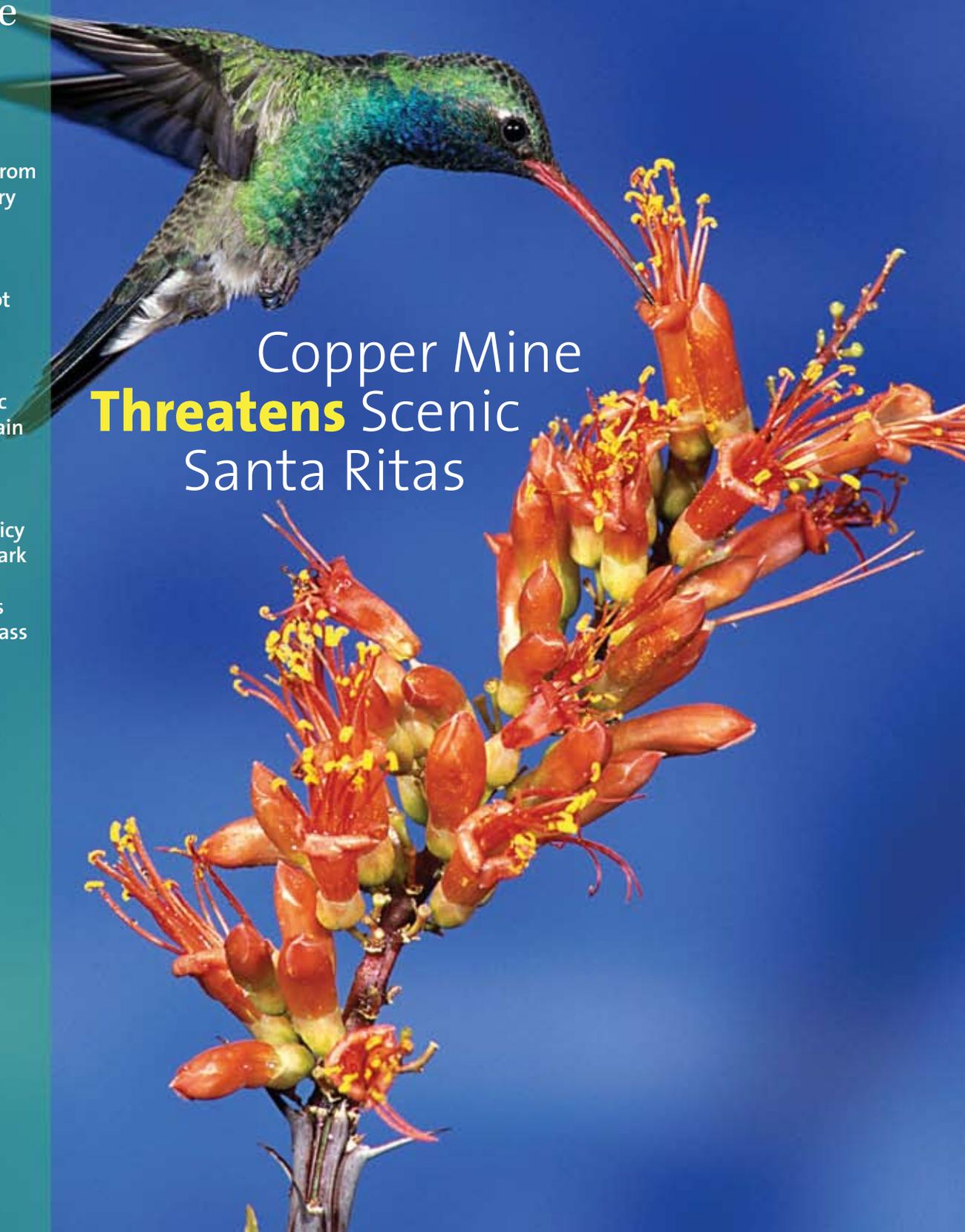
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# Three Things to Ask This Summer

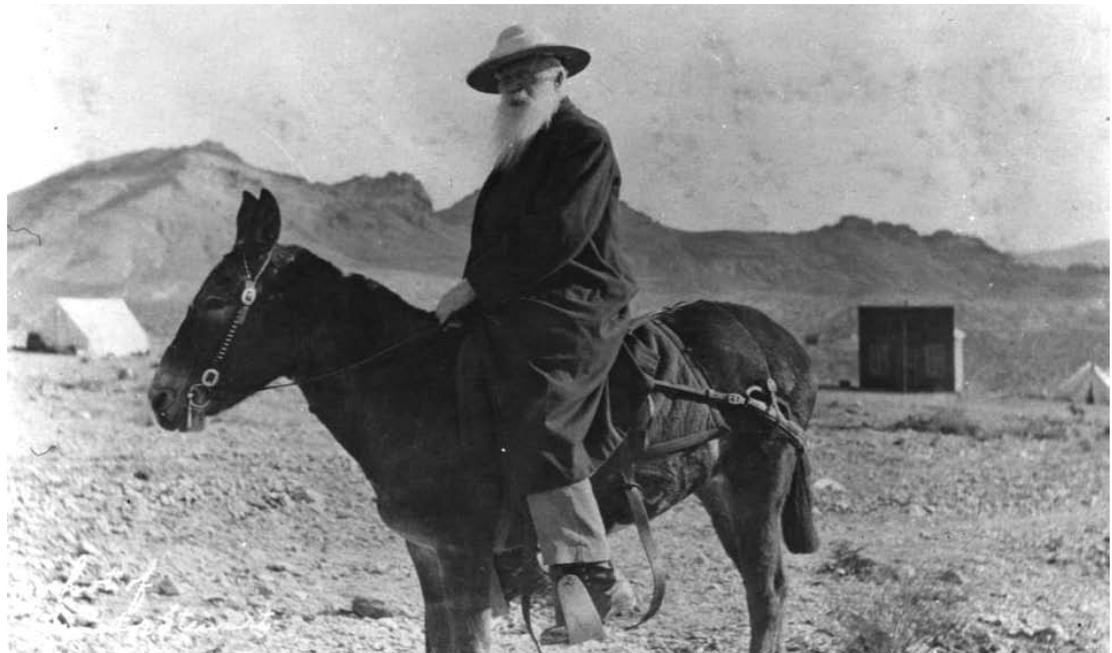
By the time you read this, spring will be in full bloom and your summer holiday plans should be close at hand. Here at EARTHWORKS, as we get ready to head for the great outdoors, we're grappling with three very important questions: Can we put the "public" back in public lands? Is the gas in our tank this summer about to get even dirtier? When will we be able to recommend an ethical ring for all those spring and summer weddings?

## Can We Put the "Public" Back in Public Lands?

The mining industry has come a long way since the 1872 Mining Law was enacted, yet the core provisions of the law that regulates mining on public lands in the United States still date back to the late 19th century. These outdated provisions include 20 acre mining claims—now too small for today's massive operations; land and mineral title for \$2.50 or \$5.00 an acre (although this policy is temporarily suspended); no credit to good environmental operators and no penalties for bad actors; and no reclamation program for abandoned mines. And worse of all, mining trumps **all** other uses for activities on public lands. This just doesn't make sense in 2007.

Today most conflicts over mining result from the fact that the 1872 law was written to help settle the West—it encouraged individuals to prospect for gold and other minerals across our western frontier. Society has changed in the past 135 years. We need metals and minerals for essential consumer products, and we want metals for jewelry and other non-essential products; but we don't want to mine at the expense of our National Parks, clean water, and pristine landscapes.

What's needed is balance—a law that allows mining to be weighed against other land uses. Most responsible mining companies wouldn't dispute this; the trick is how to do it. The solution is to develop and implement an efficient decision-making policy that lets mining companies know early in the process if a particular parcel of public land is deemed better-used for other purposes. Such a process is essential so that mining companies don't spend millions of investors' dollars developing proposals only to find out at the end of the process that they are not best-used



*OUTDATED LAWS: Senator William Stuart (author of the 1872 Mining Law). Passed in 1872, the mining law was designed to encourage mining when the nation was trying to promote the settlement of the West. The law is still in effect today and covers over 270 million acres of public land.*



*DIRTY ENERGY: The production of fuels from low-quality and synthetic petroleum, such as tar sands, could have greenhouse gas emissions 30%–70% greater than the emissions from conventional petrol.*

Photo courtesy of: Eddy Moretti



for mining. If EARTHWORKS, community leaders and responsible mining companies can design a way forward, we may have a new mining law on our public lands.

### What's In Your Gas Tank?

Higher fuel prices are creating new economic incentives for alternative, renewable fuel sources. That's the good news. There is also bad news. To keep pace with America's insatiable fuel appetite, we're about to drill and dig in some of the most remote places for some of the "dirtiest" fuel ever known. Some of these sources are so "dirty" that drilling them could mean significant losses in our effort to protect the climate—just as new public

and political momentum seems to be building for tougher climate protection measures.

Just consider the Canadian tar sands in the Boreal Forest. If mined, a region the size of Florida would be destroyed. We also lose on global warming due to the huge amounts of energy necessary to refine this dirty fuel. When burned, tar sands pollute more than traditional petroleum products. There is not yet a public or political debate on these new, "dirty" energy sources. That will soon change as EARTHWORKS launches its new "dirty energy" campaign and we ask consumers to think about whether or not they have "dirty oil" in their tanks—and how to help us move in a cleaner direction.

### Can We Put an Ethical Ring on Your Finger?

EARTHWORKS is at the center of a new effort to certify that large-scale mines are meeting the highest environmental and human rights standards. We've also helped organize a discussion with key actors in the artisanal (small-scale) mining sector about how to create incentives for best practice and ethical behavior. As both of these discussions come to fruition, consumers should be able to wear jewelry knowing that they helped communities and the environment.

Until a day when a credible, independent, third-party system is in place to verify compliance, be wary of false claims. Be particularly wary of anyone, or any company, that asserts that they themselves have developed such a system and have self-certified that they are in compliance.

Consumer and public action is at the center of each of these efforts. Before you get far into your summer plans, take a moment and take a pledge to help EARTHWORKS bring you responsible, safe and healthy products and a better environment.

Stephen D'Esposito  
President



*DIRTY METALS: Married last October, Andrew and Johanna Heyduk struggled to find the perfect wedding bands—rings that hadn't contributed to hurting communities or the environment. It was an exhaustive search. Avid recyclers, they eventually settled on recycled platinum bands after being unable to find that perfect ring in a store. "The good thing about capitalism is that it does empower consumers," explained Andrew Heyduk as he signed the No Dirty Gold Pledge, "A group of consumers who share an awareness can have a big impact."*



# New Mexico Passes Strongest Landowner Rights Bill in United States

OIL & GAS ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

The Surface Owners Protection Act requires the oil and gas operator to:

- ❑ Notify the surface owner 30 days prior to beginning any operations;
- ❑ Describe the proposed operations so that the surface owner can evaluate the effects of the operations;
- ❑ Establish a surface use and compensation agreement or post a surety bond.

**After three years of intense organizing,** coalition building and negotiation, Governor Richardson put his signature on the Surface Owners' Protection Act (SOPA), giving New Mexican landowners the strongest protection bill in the country. The new law takes effect July 1, 2007.

Led by OGAP/EARTHWORKS, the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, this year's campaign for landowner rights took center stage in the Roundhouse – New Mexico's State Capitol in Santa Fe. Sponsored by Representative Andy Nunez, the bill received the endorsement of national and local environmental organizations and the New Mexico Oil & Gas Association.

Because of the diverse coalition, the support of Governor Richardson, landowners and legislators across the state, OGAP negotiated from a position of strength with the oil and gas industry to develop House Bill 827. This bill is considered to be the nation's strongest legislation protecting landowners facing oil and gas development.

For example, no other state requires: 1) a detailed notice of oil and gas operations (to

be included in surface use and compensation agreements); 2) the breadth of compensation for damages and use (loss of agricultural production and income, lost land value, lost use of and lost access to the surface owner's land and lost value of improvements caused by oil and gas operations); and 3) and, the duty to reclaim.

Until now, companies in New Mexico were not required to have a written agreement with a rancher or homeowner before they drilled an oil or gas well, nor were they required to pay for the use of the land surface. This legislation helps landowners protect their surface rights and the value of their property and begins to restore the balance by ensuring that oil and gas companies provide a written agreement (or posts a bond) before operations can begin.

If a New Mexican landowner goes to court today against an oil company, the burden of proof is on the landowner to demonstrate that a company caused unreasonable damages. With this new law, fair compensation is more likely because a landowner will not have to prove whether or not a company was reasonable in its operations on their land. Companies will be required to pay compensation for damages and use under SOPA.

*Pictured at the March 8<sup>th</sup> signing ceremony of the SOPA: Caren Cowan (New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association), Bob Gallagher (New Mexico Oil & Gas Association), Rep. Andy Nunez, Governor Bill Richardson, Cabinet Secretary Rob Curry (New Mexico Environment Department), Bruce King (New Mexico Attorney General). Not pictured: Gwen Lachelt (OGAP), Alisa Ogden (NMCGA), Bill Sauble (NMCGA), Eric Jantz (New Mexico Environmental Law Center), Jennifer Goldman (OGAP).*

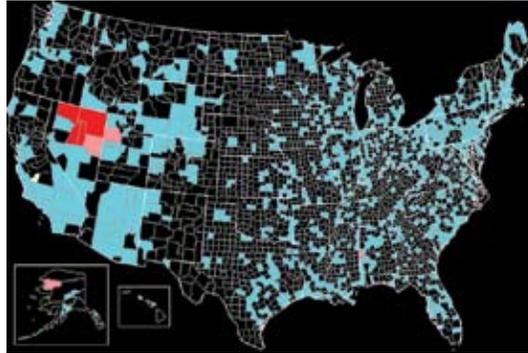


# Get the Mercury Out!

While national attention has focused on coal fired power plants as a major source of mercury air pollution, gold mining is another significant source. In fact, gold mines in Nevada are responsible for ¼ of mercury air pollution west of Texas. Airborne mercury is eventually washed back into the land by rain and snow and onto waterways, where it contaminates fish that people and wildlife consume.

To tackle this issue, EARTHWORKS teamed up with a number of Nevada groups to launch the “Get the Mercury Out” campaign. First we attempted to ascertain the magnitude of the problem with Dr. Glenn Miller, a faculty member at the University of Nevada – Reno (UNR) and also an EARTHWORKS board member. We undertook testing to measure the mercury levels near gold mines in northern Nevada and to measure mercury concentrations in fish in neighboring reservoirs.

The results were startling. The fish data, publicly released in December 2006, prompted the Nevada Division of Health to issue fish consumption advisories warning the public of potential health risks from eating fish from lakes near or downwind from gold mines.



*Nevada has become the nation's top mercury hot spot. In the U.S., 45 states have advised limiting fish consumption due to mercury contamination. Over 750,000 river miles and 13 million acres of freshwater lakes in the U.S. are under a fish consumption advisory for mercury.*

In February, the air sampling report was released, revealing some of the highest mercury concentrations in the western U.S. Two of the major Nevada newspapers (Reno and Las Vegas) took up the cause, editorializing in favor of State action.

In response to broad-based concerns, Rep. Sheila Leslie, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Nevada Assembly, introduced a bill (AB 115) calling for a worker protection program, increased mercury monitoring, and a 25% reduction in mercury emissions. EARTHWORKS, Great Basin Mine Watch, and our allies are working to advance these objectives.

For more information on this issue, go to [www.getthemercuryout.org](http://www.getthemercuryout.org).

## Glamis Gold Comes Clean on Mercury Emissions

This winter, mining company Glamis Gold came clean about the mercury air pollution coming from its Nevada gold mine. After discovering that the company has been under-reporting its mercury pollution for years, EARTHWORKS, Great Basin Mine Watch and the Idaho Conservation League warned the company they would take legal action if the company didn't fully disclose its toxic emissions as required by the Community Right to Know Act. Soon after, the company revised its reports, acknowledging much higher emissions over the last five years – an additional 400 pounds.

*As part of the Get the Mercury Out! campaign, EARTHWORKS, Great Basin Mine Watch, and Western Shoshone Defense Project highlight the dangers of mercury pollution with this billboard in Reno.*



EXPOSURE TO MERCURY CAUSES LEARNING DISABILITIES AND MEMORY LOSS.

NOT TO MENTION MEMORY LOSS.

Tell Nevada's mining industry to reduce mercury emissions now. [www.getthemercuryout.org](http://www.getthemercuryout.org)



EARTHWORKS

Great Basin Mine Watch & Western Shoshone Defense Project

GET THE MERCURY OUT!



# Saving the Scenic Santa Ritas... Again

by Lainie Levick, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas



### About the Author:

*Lainie Levick is President of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas and has been living in Tucson for 21 years. She spends most of her free time roaming around southern Arizona and working to protect its precious resources.*

### The Background

In 1995, mining giant ASARCO proposed a land exchange with the Forest Service to facilitate a copper mine at Rosemont Ranch in the Santa Rita Mountains, a major recreational area just outside Tucson. The area is a popular escape from the city, and attracts tourists for hiking, mountain biking, off-road vehicle riding, hunting, camping, horse back riding and wildlife viewing. Wildlife, particularly birds, are abundant and the region serves as a crucial migration corridor linking sky islands. The area is listed as an "Important Birding Area" (IBA) by the Audubon Society.

Needless to say, the land exchange met with serious local opposition. In 1996, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR) was formed to stop ASARCO's proposed land exchange and open pit mine. In 1997, the Pima County Board of Supervisors, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the Tucson City Council all passed unanimous resolutions against the land exchange. All three governmental bodies gave similar reasons for opposing the swap: the loss of access to 20 square miles of public land and the resulting stresses on remaining public land in the area; the loss of recreational opportunities for residents of, and visitors to, southern Arizona; the potential negative impacts on the tourism-based economy; the potential harm to wildlife as management of this diverse habitat passed from the Forest Service to a private corporation; and the

negative impact on the overall quality of life in southern Arizona.

The next year, the Forest Service and an embattled ASARCO mutually agreed to terminate the proposal, and the locals rejoiced...but not for long.

A decade later, the community is fighting a new attempt to develop this tract of public land. SSSR is reuniting local and national groups (including EARTHWORKS), hunters, off-road vehicle and gun clubs, neighborhood associations, hikers and birders to protect this fragile desert grassland—part of the Sonoran Desert biological core.

### New Owners Bring Old Woes

In 2004, Rosemont Ranch was sold by ASARCO. The new owner was considering conservation instead of mining and was willing to sell the property to Pima County, but Pima County was not able to purchase Rosemont Ranch. Consequently, the owner sold the property to Augusta Resource Corporation, a Canadian company with no mining experience.

Last summer Augusta Resource submitted a Mining Plan of Operations to the Forest Service that was rejected because it was inadequate and incomplete. However, Augusta plans to resubmit the plan in early 2007. If the Forest Service accepts this plan, the NEPA process will begin, and an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. This has locals worried.

If built, the mine would be visible from State Highway 83, a designated State Scenic Highway that attracts tourist dollars to the local economy. The Ranch lies south of I-10 and west of Scenic Highway 83. It includes the crest of the mountains at a maximum of about 6,300 feet elevation, and contains the ghost town of Helvetia on the west. To the east it includes the oak-studded hills of the Rosemont Valley which drains into Davidson

*Broad-billed hummingbirds are a common sight in the Santa Ritas, one of the most famous birding locales in Arizona.*



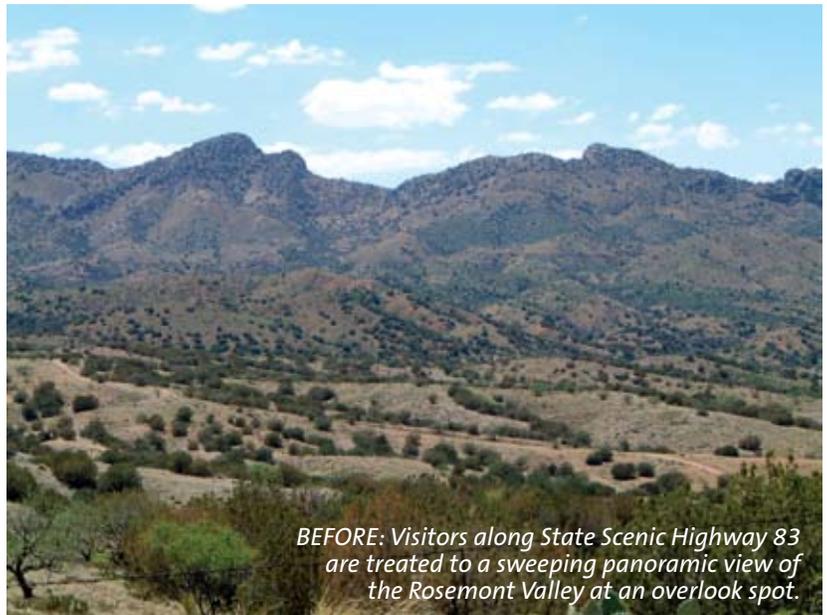
SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS

Canyon, a rare riparian area. To the north lies Mt. Fagan and to the south lies Box Canyon. This amazing landscape can be viewed from a roadside pullout (see before and after pictures at right).

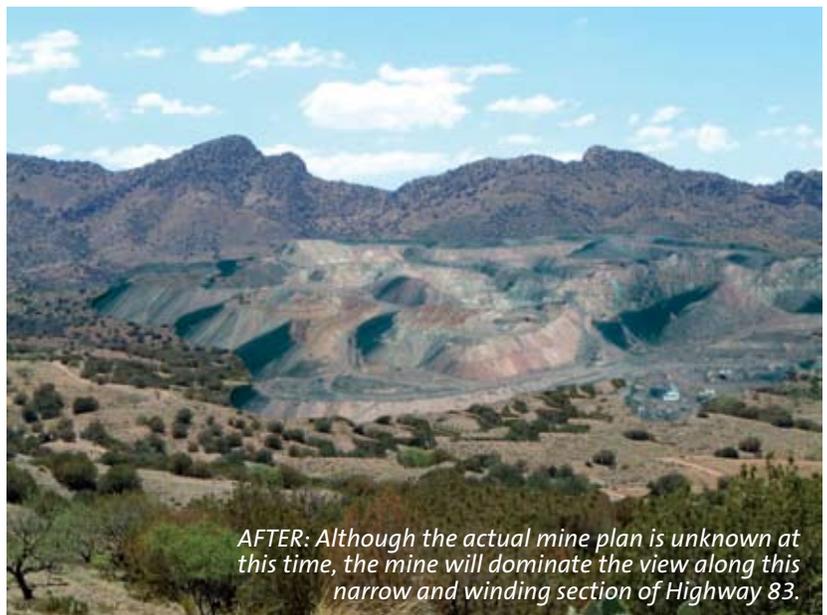
The private lands at Rosemont consist of 2,960 deeded acres along with 18,000 acres of grazing leases within the Coronado National Forest and adjoining state lands, for 20,960 acres in total. Water use for the mine would be 5,000-8,000 acre feet per year for approximately 20 years—enough for a city the size of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Millions of tons of waste rock and tailings from the mine would fill Barrel Canyon, one of the main tributaries to Davidson Canyon. The risk of unintended leaks or spills, or surface and ground-water contamination is high. Augusta has not divulged their water source, but wherever the water comes from, an aquifer will be depleted, springs will dry up, and wildlife will be deprived of water resources.

In addition, mined land reclamation in semi-arid climates is rarely successful, requiring additional topsoil, and years of irrigation and monitoring. Arizona's reclamation act requires minimal site restoration, and does not require back-filling of the open pit, which Augusta estimates would be a mile wide by about 1,200 feet deep.

This mine is emblematic of the problems with the 1872 Mining Law. Representative Grijalva (Arizona CD 7) held his first Congressional Field Hearing, "Our National Forests at Risk: The 1872 Mining Law and its Impact on Arizona's Santa Rita Mountains" on February 24, 2007. Congressman Grijalva is the Chairperson for the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Natural Resources Committee. The public comments were more than 2/3 opposed to the mine and favoring 1872 reform. Both Congressman Grijalva and Congresswomen Giffords (Tucson) have pledged to introduce legislation to withdraw the Santa Rita Mountains from mineral entry.



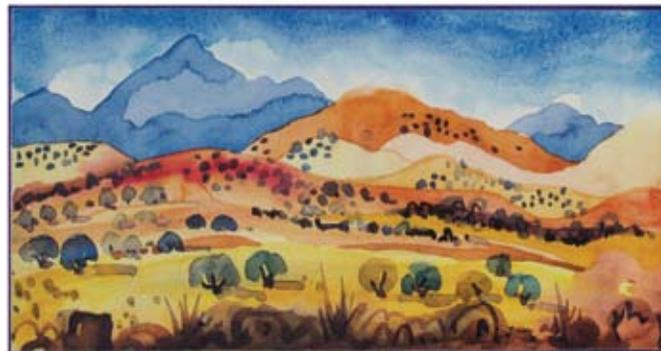
*BEFORE: Visitors along State Scenic Highway 83 are treated to a sweeping panoramic view of the Rosemont Valley at an overlook spot.*



*AFTER: Although the actual mine plan is unknown at this time, the mine will dominate the view along this narrow and winding section of Highway 83.*

SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS

**SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS!**



[www.ScenicSantaRitas.org](http://www.ScenicSantaRitas.org)

For more information and to see how you can help, go to [www.ScenicSantaRitas.org](http://www.ScenicSantaRitas.org).

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas (SSSR) is a volunteer-based, non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, based in Tucson, Arizona. Our short term goal is to prevent any mining from occurring in the Rosemont Valley. Our long term goal is to obtain permanent protection for this part of the Santa Ritas by withdrawing the Forest Service lands from mineral entry, and protecting the private lands from mining.



www.nodirtygold.org

“We know our customers expect their jewelry to sparkle without the taint of dirty gold. We believe it is our responsibility, as the premier jewelry retailer in Southeastern United States, to take the lead in the effort to ensure that gold is mined with socially and environmentally responsible methods.”

–Thomas A. Andruskevich, President and CEO, Birks & Mayors

# 22% of US Jewelry Market Supports the “Golden Rules,” But Target’s Gold Policy Is Missing the Mark

So far in 2007, twenty-three companies representing about \$12 billion in retail jewelry sales – or 22 percent of the US jewelry market – have endorsed the No Dirty Gold campaign’s “Golden Rules,” criteria for more socially and environmentally responsible mining.

We celebrated Valentine’s Day with the announcement of eleven new retailers to our “leaders” list. They are: Fred Meyer and Littman Jewelers, Ben Bridge Jeweler, Wal-Mart, QVC, Birks & Mayors, Commemorative Brands (parent company of Balfour, ArtCarved, and Keystone class rings brands), Brilliant Earth, Leber Jeweler, TurningPoint, Boscov’s and Michaels Jewelers.

Following the campaign’s February announcement, class rings company Jostens and national jewelry retailer Whitehall Jewelers also stepped up to endorse the Golden Rules.

These 23 companies are sending a strong

signal to the mining industry that there is a demand for responsibly produced gold from the jewelry sector. Jonathan Bridge, the co-CEO of Seattle-based Ben Bridge Jeweler, calls it “the ‘right thing to do’ for our community, our customers as well as the world environment.”

Meanwhile, Minnesota-based Target Corporation still refuses to formally endorse the Golden Rules. As a result, the company has been added to our “laggards” list. The No Dirty Gold campaign has been in dialogue with Target since 2005, a year after we first approached the company seeking a commitment to more responsible gold sourcing. But despite our best efforts to win the company’s support, Target’s gold policy is still off the mark.

So, we asked our supporters to take action.

More than 15,000 people sent faxes to Target CEO Robert Ulrich the week before Valentine’s Day. That same week, hundreds of people picked up the phone and called Target stores around the country asking the company to do what other leading retailers have already done - - endorse the Golden Rules. And, dozens of No Dirty Gold activists at ten schools including the University of Texas at Austin, University of South Florida and George Washington University sent handmade valentines to Robert Ulrich.

As a result of these actions, Target issued a statement acknowledging the importance of issues related to jewelry sourcing and production. But the company still has not taken the important step of endorsing specific criteria for responsible sourcing, as other retailers have done. In the coming months, we’ll continue our efforts to get Target to step to the plate and sign the Golden Rules.



# Student Activists Hail Victory in Class Rings Campaign

**No Dirty Gold student activists have a lot to smile about.** They celebrated a huge victory for the Class Rings Campaign this year when Commemorative Brands and Jostens endorsed the Golden Rules. Together these two companies account for about 80 percent of the \$700 million class rings market.

In February, Commemorative Brands, maker of ArtCarved, Balfour, and Keystone class rings brands, became the first class rings company to endorse the Golden Rules. Student concerns about the environment and human rights were central to the company's decision to do so.

"Our primary customers—college and high school students—make up a generation firmly committed to supporting brands that take corporate social responsibility seriously. By supporting the No Dirty Gold campaign's Golden Rules, we hope to reflect the values of the many students around the country who have a deep commitment to human rights and the environment," said Matt Gase, General Manager of Commemorative Brands.

The company also produced a short film which describes the powerful role jewelry retailers can play in making gold mining more responsible. You can watch the film on-line by visiting the No Dirty Gold website at [www.NoDirtyGold.org](http://www.NoDirtyGold.org).

Students at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) were instrumental in convincing Commemorative Brands, which is based in Austin and sells its Balfour brand class rings on campus, to sign the Golden Rules. They held tabling events to educate other students, lobbied the company's sales representatives on campus, and published opinion pieces in campus publications.

Ana Wolfowicz, a senior at UT Austin and a No Dirty Gold student activist, told The Daily Texan that "after Balfour representatives saw the articles, they decided they wanted to hear more about what we had to say...Our part was basically educating the campus and the Austin community."

Even as students hailed the Commemorative Brands victory, they turned their attention to Jostens, which is the largest class rings vendor and which, at that point, had not yet signed the Golden Rules. A few weeks later, Jostens followed suit and endorsed the Golden Rules. Congratulations to all the No Dirty Gold student activists who made these victories possible through their hard work over the past three years!



*Above: Ana Wolfowicz, a senior at UT Austin, tables on campus*

*Right: Susy Reyes, a freshman at UT Austin, sends a valentine asking Jostens to sign the Golden Rules*



## 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."*

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

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.



# United Fishermen of Alaska Join Bristol Bay Protection Campaign

Earlier this year, EARTHWORKS and our allies took out a full page ad in National Jeweler Magazine urging jewelry retailers to take a pledge to protect the Bristol Bay Watershed and its tremendous salmon fishery from the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska. The mine is proposed in one of North America's most spectacular and abundant ecosystems and has already been opposed by much of the surrounding community – including Native villages, hunters and anglers, lodge owners and the commercial fishing industry.

A new group has recently added their voice to the growing opposition to the Pebble Mine

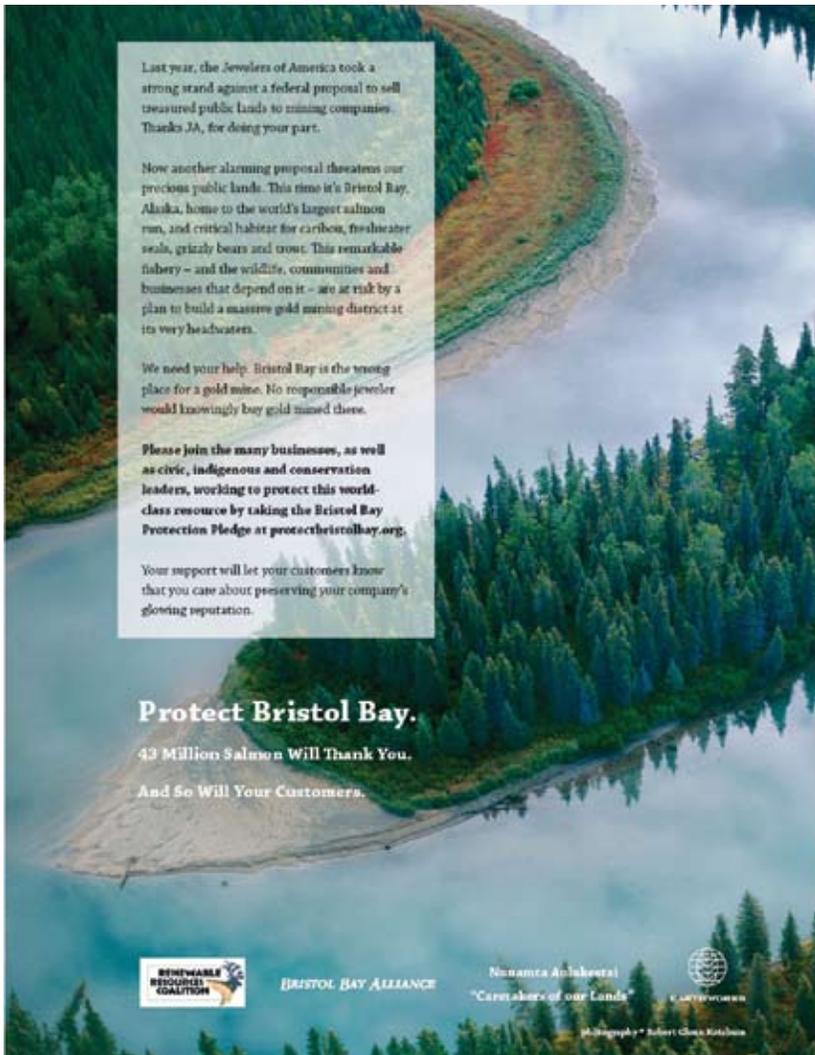
– the United Fishermen of Alaska. The UFA, an organization of commercial fisherman, processors and other seafood-related businesses, voted unanimously to oppose the Pebble project at their meeting in January.

Members of Alaska State Legislature have also joined in the fight to protect the Bristol Bay Watershed. Two pieces of legislation have been introduced that would help stop the Pebble Mine proposal.

Representative Bryce Edgmon (D-Dillingham) has introduced a bill intended to protect wild salmon in Bristol Bay. HB 134, "The Alaska Wild Salmon Protection Act," would prohibit the withdrawal, obstruction, pumping or pollution of surface or subsurface water in any Bristol Bay drainages that support salmon. The legislation also prohibits the destruction of salmon habitat, creates a fining schedule for violating these protections, and protects existing water uses authorized prior to the passage of the bill.

In the Alaska State Senate, Senator Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak) has introduced SB 67, a bill to create the "Jay Hammond State Game Refuge" in Bristol Bay. The refuge would encompass 6 million acres of state land and make sure that the land was used for "public use of fish and wildlife and their habitat, particularly subsistence, commercial and recreational fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing and general public recreation in a high quality environment."

STOP THE PEBBLE MINE



Last year, the Jewelers of America took a strong stand against a federal proposal to sell treasured public lands to mining companies. Thanks JA, for doing your part.

Now another alarming proposal threatens our precious public lands. This time it's Bristol Bay, Alaska, home to the world's largest salmon run, and critical habitat for caribou, freshwater seals, grizzly bears and trout. This remarkable fishery – and the wildlife, communities and businesses that depend on it – are at risk by a plan to build a massive gold mining district at its very headwaters.

We need your help. Bristol Bay is the wrong place for a gold mine. No responsible jeweler would knowingly buy gold mined there.

Please join the many businesses, as well as civic, indigenous and conservation leaders, working to protect this world-class resource by taking the Bristol Bay Protection Pledge at [protectthebristolbay.org](http://protectthebristolbay.org).

Your support will let your customers know that you care about preserving your company's glowing reputation.

**Protect Bristol Bay.**  
43 Million Salmon Will Thank You.  
And So Will Your Customers.



*Alaska's Bristol Bay is the world's largest salmon fishery, generating over \$450 million annually and jobs for 12,000 Alaskans.*

# South American Activists Face Threats and Intimidation

In October 2006, heavily-armed policemen raided the home of Carlos Zorrilla, a mining activist in the Intag cloud forest of Ecuador. For over a decade, Carlos and his organization, DECOIN, have been working to protect the Intag region from large-scale copper mining. US-Canadian company Ascendant Copper acquired the rights to a copper concession in Intag in 2004. Since then, DECOIN employees and local activists have encountered intimidation and harassment by mining proponents.

After the raid, EARTHWORKS asked our online members to send letters to Ecuadorian authorities, asking them to investigate the charges. Amnesty International also mobilized support for Carlos. Carlos credits the public scrutiny and international support he received for preventing his arrest. He is still fighting to have all the charges against him dropped.

*“When you told me of the thousands of letters sent supporting me, I thought that in the midst of this insanity and travesty of justice, there is a bright side. And it is a very important bright side—the fact that there is this impressive and committed group of people who care. Without this kind of international pressure cases like mine would be hopeless, and my life would be in much more danger.” —Carlos Zorrilla*

Meanwhile, in Peru, Father Marco Arana and Dr. Mirtha Vasquez have been targeted with death threats, defamation, and surveillance. They work for GRUFIDES, a human rights and environmental organization that supports communities impacted by mining in the Cajamarca region of northern Peru – home to Newmont Mining’s massive Yanacocha mine. There is strong local opposition to the mine’s expansion plans.

During protests in August 2006, several people were injured, and one shot dead amid the clash with police and security personnel. The following November, Edmundo Becerra

Corina, an environmentalist and critic of the Yanacocha mine, was shot dead in Cajamarca. The attack took place days before he was due to meet with the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Soon after, Father Arana and Dr. Vasquez, who are investigating these incidents, began receiving anonymous death threats, were followed by unidentified individuals on motorbikes, and were photographed in the street. The home of another GRUFIDES member was broken into, and documents and computer files were searched.

A few months later, a national Peruvian newspaper reported that police had uncovered an espionage operation against GRUFIDES. Police also found a payment receipt linking the spy to the company that provides security to the Yanacocha mine. Among the evidence was video footage and photographs of local environmentalists, along with code names for them. Father Arana’s photo was labeled “el diablo” (the devil).

Both Newmont and the private security company have denied knowledge of the espionage operation. Peru’s National Human Rights Coordinator backs Father Arana’s call for a full investigation and has expressed serious concern about the safety of GRUFIDES members.

**To Learn More About our Partners in Peru and Ecuador Visit:**

**GRUFIDES**  
[www.grufides.org](http://www.grufides.org)

**DECOIN**  
[www.decoin.org](http://www.decoin.org)

*Dr. Mirtha Vasquez Chuquilin, Executive Director of GRUFIDES, received an anonymous telephone call in which she was told “Te vamos a violar y luego te vamos a matar” (We will rape you and then we will kill you). Father Arana’s niece received a telephone call in which she was told: “Dile a tu tío que no se meta, le vamos a disparar un balazo en la cabeza” (Tell your uncle not to get involved, we will put a bullet through his head).*

EARTHWORKS & COMMUNITIES



# EARTHWORKS @home



## SUPPORT EARTHWORKS BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Our Monthly Giving Club is a special group of people who make a monthly pledge to help EARTHWORKS. The monthly pledge starts (and ends) at your convenience, so you are not “locked in” to giving beyond what you want.

### Q: What are the advantages to me?

A: It's simply an easier way for you to give, because the giving is done automatically. No more mail solicitations! The gift amount that you choose is automatically transferred each month to EARTHWORKS, so it can go to work faster, and more of your donation goes to directly fund our programs.

### Q: How much do people give?

A: The amount that people give varies widely—from \$10 to \$1,000 a month. Most gifts tend to be in the \$10–\$30 range, but we only ask donors to give what they are comfortable with giving.

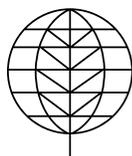
### Q: How is my gift transferred?

A: You can choose to give by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or your credit card.

### Q: Will I receive a tax-deductible receipt?

A: Yes. Rather than send you a receipt for each individual gift, we offer you the convenience of receiving one annual tax receipt in January or February for the previous year's gifts.

You can sign up for our monthly donor program by using the enclosed envelope, or online: [donate.earthworksaction.org](http://donate.earthworksaction.org)



**EARTHWORKS**

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