

1872 MINING LAW FACT

How about a gold mine to go with that burger?



The first in a series on the 1872 Mining Law, highlighting impacts on taxpayers, community health, and water resources and the need for meaningful reform.



For less than the cost of a hamburger lunch, multinational mining companies have acquired vast areas of publicly-owned land rich in precious metals like gold, silver and copper.

That's because mining companies can buy mineral-bearing public lands for \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre under the 1872 Mining Law.



In 1994, this 19th century law forced American taxpayers to “sell” the Goldstrike Mine in Nevada to Toronto’s Barrick Gold Corporation for \$9,765. When finished mining, Barrick

estimates they will have extracted 46 million oz of gold, or \$21.5 billion worth—a markdown of \$21,499,990,235!

Although there is currently a moratorium on 1872 Mining Law land purchases, Congress must renew it each year. In 2005, former Congressmen Pombo and Gibbons attempted to repeal the moratorium and once again allow the sale of mineral-rich public lands to corporate interests.

The 1872 Mining Law is long overdue for reform. Please support HR 2262, the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007 – the bill that will put an end to the (almost) free lunch.

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