

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINING RIGHTS

NEWS AND EVENTS THAT RMMR IS INVOLVED IN AND HOW WE GOT STARTED

Rocky Mountain *Mining* Rights was *founded soon after the February 3, 2014 Joint Hearing* at the Capitol Building in Boise *Idaho*. We recognized *a need to join* efforts to *promote mining on* the individual level as well as pushing back against aggressive EPA NPDES permitting processes. We rely exclusively on the 1872 Mining Act for our congressionally granted rights to locate and extract minerals (gold) from previously unappropriated federal lands.

RMMR was involved in the legislative effort in 2014 to nullify EPA regulations that are not supported by the Clean Water Act. When this effort failed we brought House Bill 51 to the 2015 legislative session. When House Bill 51 was passed by the House Resources and Conservation Committee, but sent to the amending order, we teamed up with the Idaho Recreation Council and supported House Bill 255.

The focus of RMMR is in helping fellow miners with claims and claim issues. We have helped save our membership and others the agony of claims being closed by missed deadlines and improper paperwork. We have begun the process of bringing our mining districts back to an organized status and although this endeavor is a slow and daunting process we are committed to seeing it through.

More recently RMMR has been involved in helping fellow miners that have found themselves in the Federal Court system for doing nothing more than visiting their mining claims and working them with hand tools. We are doing all that we can to assist one gentleman in particular who was cited after making a trip to Orangeville to meet with the Forest Service LEO. The miner was cited for violations that allegedly occurred on the Nez Perce National Forest, but on the day that he was cited he was not anywhere near his claim and just exactly what he was cited for is unclear.

RMMR has met repeatedly with the Nez Perce National Forest's Forest Supervisor to try to head off any unnecessary regulations and to make our positions known. While these conversations have yet to produce any working relationship with these bureaucrats, we are convinced that we are not going to get what we need to mine without interference unless we are eternally vigilant and relentless in our pursuits.

RMMR has been in conversations with the new director at the Idaho Dept, of Environmental Quality. He is very sympathetic to the small-scale suction dredge miner and our cause. The primacy issue is making legislation in Idaho elusive for the suction dredge issue and we are forced to seek other avenues to make our case with state and federal officials. Our latest effort is to bring in the evidence that pseudoscience was used to certify the US EPA NPDES General Permit for Small Scale Suction Dredge Mining in Idaho by the State of Idaho in its 401 Certification.

RMMR has been in conversations with the Idaho Dept, of Fish and Game along with the Idaho Dept, of Water Resources to try to expand suction dredging seasons in Idaho. We are working to expand opportunities into closed waters as well as using equipment such as a motorized or mechanical winch for boulder manipulation. What we have learned is that even though the individual agency personnel are easy to work with, they are unwilling to commit anything meaningful. There seems to be a fear of what the environmentalists will say and do that permeates their decisions making.

RMMR has joined our Idaho County Commissioners in objecting to a project that has been proposed by the Forest Service to reclaim historical dredge tailing piles. From a local prospective the tailings piles are better left alone. Another issue is that several downstream claim owners would be "blinded out" of suction dredge mining on their claims for no less that one full season. This alternative is unacceptable.

RMMR has joined with the Idaho Recreation Council to find solutions to the United States Forest Service road closures that affect claim owners. This should be an easy issue, as the law is on the side of the dam owner, but it is still something that has to be addressed quite frequently. A claim owner will be denied access to roads and sometimes permanently if they don't protest!

Idaho County Sheriff, Doug Giddings is a friend of suction dredge miners and the resource extraction industries as a whole. If you find yourself in Idaho County and you have problems with federal agencies when you are out and about and generally minding your own business, please call our Sheriff! He has a tried and true method for dealing with the federal LEO's at the federal court level. RMMR supports our local sheriff both at the polls and in his perspective of how a constitutional government functions.

RMMR teamed up with Public Lands for the People in February of this year to send an appeal to the EPA for a fellow miner. The details are in the March issue of the International California Mining Journal on page 19. We have yet to receive a response from the US EPA. Our next step will be to work with our Congressional delegation to meet with the EPA and the Forest Service to clarify our position and to make the bureaucracies provide their rationale for requiring a permit when the Clean Water Act is not the statute provides a lawful authority to do so.

RMMR is not interested in trying to unite all Idaho miners, only to unite our ideas to form a political force in our individual mining districts. Please visit Dredgers Digest for more information and don't hesitate to call on RMMR with your ideas, information, or if you have a problem with your claim.