



MILLENNIUM DIGGERS ASSOCIATION Keizer, Oregon



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DATE: July 27th, 2013

A Summary of the Millennium Digger's Brigg's Creek Outing ...as remembered by Penny Esplin

We didn't have an official meeting for the month of July; we had an outing and potluck down at our claim on Brigg's Creek. There was a major forest fire on the south side of the Illinois River, so the sky was real smokey. Several of our members showed up at the gathering down there on Saturday July 27th. We had lots of great food, and we shared good spirits and fellowship with each other while there. There were a total of about 15 of us.

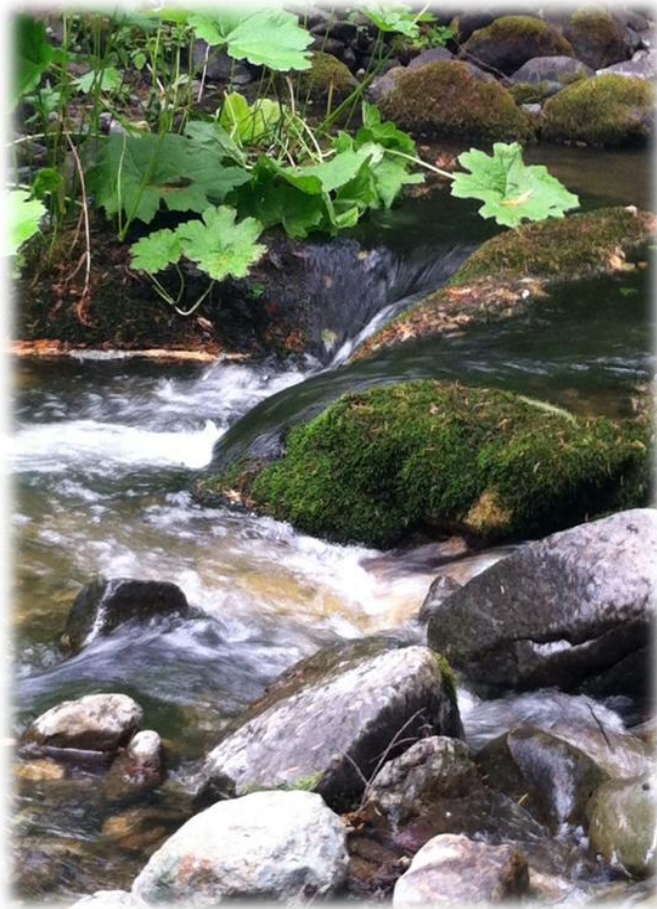
This outing was more than anything, a commemorative tribute to Larry Sheridan. His love of Brigg's Creek runs in its waters, along with his spirit. So, Marlea felt it was only right to give him a "sending off" down at Brigg's, with his close friends who loved him so, and a salute to his wonderful spirit.

A while after we had rested from eating, Marlea asked us to gather down by the creek. There, she sprinkled some of Larry's ashes into the creek, and she gave each of us a flower to send down along with him, all of us saying a silent good-bye and prayer. After that, we each took a shot of whiskey in his memory. (Except that I {Penny} thought it was apple juice, until I drank it, and whoa! Did I get a surprise!)

We shared smiles and tears, it was such a beautiful place, and time seemed to stand still in that surreal setting; with the red sun sending bright orange highlights on everything it touched. The really special effect was the shimmering red reflections seen through the water as it shone on the submerged rocks. Strange and otherworldly laser-type light reflections caught all of us in a mesmerized, transfixed state! That, in itself, made the event super special and intense! "We love you Larry! Your smiling spirit is alive within ourselves and these waters!"



"Sweet Memories"
From Marlea



The confluence of Briggs and Soldier Creek -Marlea



-Joe

Notice the tree by the bottom left, looks like a soldier with his sword raised!



These are hauntingly beautiful pictures -Joe



Looking across Briggs Creek claim meadow towards road. -Joe



Lodi on "High Alert" -Marlea



Smoke filtered red sun -Joe

Fire on the Mountain!
-Penny



**Don
Esch
came
for a
visit.**



**Eban Ray,
President of
Willamette
Valley
Miners....**



**...came on
his bike
and
camped
with us!
And, is
now a
member
of our
club!**

A BALLAD OF BRIGGS CREEK

*Some folks get a fever from bad colds and flu,
Some folks get high from drinking a few,
Some folks get excited to pull in a big fish,
Others just get excited, to try a new dish.*

*But Larry was smitten with a fever for GOLD!
Yup, he had the Gold Fever, as you might have been told!
Brigg's Creeks where he'd find it, just awaiting for him,
Dredging season was coming, his hopes would not dim!*

*Each summer he'd pace and be focused on Briggs,
He just couldn't wait to dredge and do digs!
So he'd check out the "Harvey" our R.V. and then,
Make sure it'd run on down South once again.*

*Marvin would join him, his gold buddy man,
Bewildered yet eager to try dredging again!
They'd pack and repack from dawn until night,
Making sure everything was secured and made tight!*

*Hours later they'd roll and bounce into camp,
Pull out the camp chairs and then light up the lamp!
Mosquitoes were happy to welcome them back,
And sure couldn't wait to have a quick snack!
The forest was silent and the Brigg's icy cold,
The fellas could hardly wait, to get to the Gold!
But after unpacking and making their beds,
...A few Bloody Mary's which would go to their heads!*

*"Hey, Larry, remember when we forgot the dredge nozzle?"
Had to go back to Grant's Pass to buy one, such hassle?"
"Yeah, Marvin, remember how we tried to use the cell phone,
Had to drive up the mountain ten miles to call home!"*

*Such abundance of memories , breakdowns and squabbles,
Never ended their friendship amidst all of the troubles!
Each brought their talents to camp and to creek,
Always their minds were on the Gold they would seek!*

*The dredges finally launched and the motors were rumblin',
It took them all day and their tummies were grumblin'.
Tomorrow they'd dredge that new hole near that mound,
For sure that's where all of the gold would be found!*

*Marvin would cook, and Larry would putter,
Steaks on the barbee and both you'd hear mutter.
"Tomorrow we'll find the old Mother Lode!"
"There's Gold to be found just down that old road!"*

*Wetsuits to squeeze in and booties to fit,
Air hoses and diving masks and tools to forgit.
So much equipment and few hours to work,
"Just three weeks to find it, where does it lurk?"*

*"Dredge up that gravel, find more black sand,
Pan that sample, watch out for your hand!"
"Whew! Time for a "cleanout", , "Bring over that pan!"
"See that picker!, We'll be rich, Man!"*

*Exhaustion would find them by afternoon hot,
Crawling back onto the old ATV, "plumb shot!"
Both hardly a walking, legs in a cramp,
Hoping leftovers are awaiting back in the camp!*

*The fellas went seeking golden nuggets in the creek,
Maybe they didn't know what true treasures they'd seek,
They went looking for gold, would go to no ends,
But found out that nothing was so "golden" as friends!*

*P.S. It wasn't the gold that they're wantin, so much as just Finding the Gold!
I know they found it!!!*

******For Marvin L. Swain, a very good friend!*

*Written by Marlea Sheridan (7/22/13) in memory of her husband,
Larry R. Sheridan*

FIRE!!!



This map shows the location of the Labrador fire (red outline) on about August 8. Note the location of the Fossil Flats claim in the upper right corner of the map (in gold letters).

The fire has not grown much since this map was made. The fire is still active and stalled at about 2,023 acres. The most current incident report for August 19 follows. It looks like the 4105 road to the Briggs Creek claims will be closed for the entire mining season. They expect these major fires will burn until the October rains arrive.

Labrador Fire Update August 19, 2013

Incident: Labrador Fire Wildfire

SOUTHWEST OR - The Labrador Fire continues to burn in an area south and west of the Illinois River in inaccessible country 30 miles southwest of Grants Pass, Oregon.

Isolated heat pockets still persist around the perimeter of the Labrador Fire. Today's temperatures will again reach the mid to upper 90's and relative humidity and fuel moisture remain low. The weather forecast is calling for lightning beginning late tomorrow night persisting through Wednesday. All of these factors make it paramount that crews remain vigilant and ready to respond to any flare-ups that may occur on the fire, or new fire starts that may result from the predicted lightning. An engine, a hand crew and the King's Peak Wildland Fire Module will be working along the Illinois River from Miami Bar to Oak Flat in Josephine County. Three helicopters remain on the fire and will be ready to respond if needed.

Revegetation crews have been surveying and implementing mitigation measures since the inception of the fire. Those activities will continue today.

An Evacuation Level 1 order is still in place for the Oak Flat community in Josephine County. Level 1 means that people should be prepared to evacuate. The Illinois River road remains closed to public use for safety reasons.

For more information please contact Public Information Officer Tim Johnson at (541) 864-9282.

For detailed information on the fire including maps and photos please visit:

<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3563/>

Washington State Mining News

KUDOS TO DONATORS

BEATTY v WDFW,

It is time for small-scale mineral prospectors to receive an update to their case. The Pollution Control Hearing Board, the Kittitas County Superior Court hearings were completed by early 2013. Because of the outcomes of these two courts it was determined by legal advice and Resources Coalition to refer the case to the Court of Appeals, Spokane, Washington. ALL PRE-HEARING work has been completed, thus, we are now waiting for a notification of an oral argument date.

SOME BACKGROUND (very briefly).

Jerry Hobbs (PLP) and Pat Keene (Keene Engineering) in years past met with the miners and Resources Coalition at the WPMA Gold Show. Jerry and Pat gave us a recipe to overcome the restrictions and prohibitions of WDFW's Gold and Fish Pamphlet. Resources Coalition started Miner's Rally's and then participated as stakeholders in the re-write of the G and F Pamphlet.

Going into the re-write effort (which had some limited success) the miners did not know the work windows would not be negotiated. I did a personal analysis of today's work windows and compared them with the 1999 G and F Pamphlet. By disregarding the winter months newly allowed in the present pamphlet, it was determined we miners LOST 28,000 work days.

Jerry Hobbs of PLP suggested we sue WDFW over the work windows. Legal advice suggested we needed a specific case from a HPA denial, hence...BEATTY v WDFW... beginning early in 2011 via a JARPA leading to a denied HPA to expand a work window of 15 days for in-water dredging. Resources Coalition and our attorney James Buchal considered the case because of the existence of a predetermined set of elements being satisfied for filing a case. Basically, Resources Coalition waited approximately 6 years for this specific case to surface.

President Jerry Hobbs of PLP took the case under advisement and met with the PLP Board. Kudos to PLP for their continual consultation and financial support! GPAA also deserves kudos, their donations to PLP makes its way to our attorney to defray our legal costs.

KUDOS TO DONATORS

Kudos go to the miners who donated without receiving raffle tickets which is the most honorable way to donate. Kudos to those that bought raffle tickets. Some of those one spot donations amounted to \$100.00.

Kudos to Bella and Barbara Kovak of Bedrock Prospectors and WWGPAA (Port Orchard). Bella donated two exquisite pieces of metal sculpture art depicting mining related themes. These two separate raffles lasted for two years. Bela's art produced \$1124.00.

Kudos goes to Butch Wilson (Secretary of Resources Coalition) who donated a sculpture of a miner panning with actual small gold nuggets in the pan. The raffle for this sculpture produced \$3221.65.

Kudos goes to Dave Rutan (Oregon Gold Trips) who donated a lifetime share in his Emily Camp patented mining location in Southwest Oregon. In this raffle was a bezel filled necklace donated by Miners Keepers (Colorado) worth about \$250.00 of beautiful gold. These two prizes reaped a grand total of \$5357.00.

It is estimated that these raffles raised approximately \$10,000.00. At this date we do not have any raffle items. It remains absolutely essential that the miners continue to donate to the Resources Coalition, Beatty v WDFW case legal fund. This case is THEIR case sanctioned and approved by Resources Coalition and the PLP Board. PLP has determined that this case is a VERY SIGNIFICANT case for the business of small-scale mineral prospecting and mining. There is also another \$670.00 listed as unspecified donations.

MORE KUDOS DESERVED.

Various special interests and prospecting/mining clubs deserve major kudos for their donations. Kudos to ICMJ editor Scott Harn. Scott made a promise years ago to support a case in Washington by giving 100% of his monies derived from a one day's subscription receipt at a WPMA Gold Show. Two years ago he lived up to his promise and donated \$525.00 to Resources Coalition.

North West Underground (Vic Pisoni) donated \$100.00. NW Underground now has 6 volumes of their "Discovering Washington Historic Mines," series on the market. These fine volumes will be available at the Miner's Rally at the vendor location operated by Doug and Patti Irish.

Kudos to WPMA for their generous and consistent donations. WPMA appears to be the leading club distributor with \$2000.00 in 2012 and another \$1500.00 in 2013. Kudos also goes to WPMA for their providing a venue and donated space via a Gold Show in which the raffles had ultimate exposure.

Kudos goes to Bedrock Prospectors who are great contributors donating \$2000.00 in 2012 and another \$151.25 in 2013. Bedrock Prospectors have been developing a couple of raffles in 2013. It is a high probability that at the end of this year's Miner's Rally with the completion of their current raffle, Bedrock Prospectors will surpass WPMA. Major kudos to Bedrock Prospectors because their donations have been split 50/50 with Resources Coalition and PLP. Therefore, some of that donation had returned to Resources Coalition via PLP's financial assistance.

A small group of prospectors, Yakima Prospectors, deserve kudos. In 2011 they donated \$500.00.

Western Washington GPAA (Port Orchard chapter) deserves kudos too. In 2012 they donated \$246.00 and donated another \$145.00 in 2013.00.

Kudos to the New GPAA Chapter (Everett) who donated \$72.00. Kudos goes to the Liberty Washington miners who donated \$200.00 in 2012 and North Central Washington Prospectors donated \$250.00.

Bill and Nancy Thomas, Cindy Alila, Mr. and Mrs. Espinosa and Betty and Bruce Beatty attended a CAPR (Property Rights Organization) meeting. As a result, records show that CAPR donated \$250.00.

Suffice it to say that the individual mining clubs and special interest groups have been donating. Again, presently I have no raffle prize, therefore, we must continue to rely upon direct donations. The above list of donators is by no means a complete list and I apologize for not being able to list all donators.

Legal costs continue to accumulate. For Attorney James Buchal to develop the briefs for the Court of Appeals required many hours costing approximately \$2,600.00 (5 briefs total). We now have a legal debt of nearly \$9,000.00. As stated before, the costs for the Court of Appeals will now diminish substantially because the only major action left is the actual oral argument, date pending. Oral arguments are likely to cost about \$1,800.00 to \$2,000.00.

Thank you all for your donations whether directly or through raffles. Our attorney is upbeat about our chances for success lessening the impact of WDFW on our business. Hopefully we will have ammunition from the courts when Resources Coalition again enters the arena of negotiating the next Gold and Fish Pamphlet.

See every one at the Rally, August 23-25.

Bruce Beatty.

Ask Senator Wyden for a Balanced Plan to Protect Oregon's O&C Lands

Roseburg Beacon shared a link TV Ad

An ex-commissioner from Douglas County Oregon statement on O&C lands.

"This ad is complete nonsense! We already have an O&C Act, a law, which congress has been breaking for years. We should be demanding that Wyden and Congress uphold the law which not only allows logging it requires it! Instead conservatives continue to think that compromise is the answer.

That we can somehow find middle ground with environmental extremists who want NO logging and have been VERY successful in stopping it.

This ad is glaring proof why we will continue to lose ground, freedom and economic prosperity. Can't the makers of this ad, understand that by promising to log without using clear cuts won't make extremists agree to be reasonable? They aren't reasonable and they're winning, getting everything they want. Why would they compromise?

We should be teaching why clear cutting is healthy for the land, and an acceptable management tool. Clear cuts offer food for wildlife where no trees or only young trees are growing, then as the trees grow up, we log a patch somewhere else. Environmentalists love gardens and growing their own food, or purchasing it at farmers markets.

Harvesting trees is no different - not at all, they are just a crop. We can grow and harvest trees in such a way as to be environmentally friendly. So why can't our

side ever learn that every time you meet in the middle you lose half of your ground? The extremists get it. They just take and take and we give and give.

I say STOP the compromise, refuse the welfare money which is killing our resource dependent communities one dollar at a time, eventually leaving us so broke we won't be able to fight back. The "safety net" congress gave O & C counties in lieu of logging was never a safety net for timber dependent communities it was only a safety net under government jobs which is why government is the largest employer. They will never vote not to fund their own jobs thus, until we throw them out of office, we will never get back to logging, mining, fishing, and creating real wealth from the only place it ever comes - the ground.

Say NO TO ANY CHANGE OR COMPROMISE TO THE O & C ACT. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO COMPROMISE A SINGLE ACRE. THAT IS THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE TO GET OFF THE GOVERNMENT DOLE AND ONCE AGAIN BE KNOWN AS THE TIMBER CAPITOL OF THE WORLD!

NO MORE COMPROMISING - NEVER!

Marilyn Kittelman"

TV Ad: Ask Sen. Wyden for a Balanced Plan to Protect Oregon's O&C Lands

China publicized Western gold market rigging just hours after April smash

Submitted by cpowell on Thu, 2013-08-15 01:39. Section: [Documentation](#)
9:55p ET Wednesday, August 14, 2013
<http://www.gata.org/node/12917>

On April 16, just hours after the smashing of the gold price by the dumping of so much gold and gold futures that it could have been instigated only by Western central banks, the Chinese government news agency China Network Television appears to have published a long commentary reasserting China's awareness of the constant efforts of Western central banks to rig the gold market by leasing gold.

Diplomatic cables from the U.S. embassy in Beijing to the State Department in Washington, published by Wikileaks in 2011, extensively quoted Chinese government press reports from 2008 and 2010 about Western central bank efforts to suppress the price of gold to support the U.S. dollar:

<http://www.gata.org/node/10380>

<http://www.gata.org/node/10416>

What seems to be the new Chinese government press commentary, posted this week by the blogger Koos Jansen at his Internet site, also notes the difficulty of the German Bundesbank in retrieving the gold it has vaulted at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. An Internet translation of the Chinese commentary that has been posted by Jansen is, predictably enough, largely incoherent, Chinese requiring a lot more massaging into English than computer programs can yet do well, but the translation is enough to show that China is scrutinizing the gold market, is familiar with the latest developments and details, and long has known exactly what is going on.

Indeed, it may be suspected that China actually cooperated with the Western central banks' smashing of the gold price in April on the understanding that China then could join in the purchase of sharply discounted gold unloaded by panicked Western investors. The Chinese government also may have chosen April 16 to publicize Western gold price suppression to a domestic audience so that its own people would *not* be panicked out of *their own* gold. Of course the Chinese were panicked only into besieging gold shops to get still more metal.

Russia's central bank, the Bank of Russia, signified its awareness of gold price suppression by Western central banks via a speech by its deputy chairman, Oleg V. Mozhaikov, to a conference held by the London Bullion Market Association in Moscow in June 2004. Mozhaikov credited GATA by name, "Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee" being the only words he spoke in English during his presentation to the LBMA. It was as if he was telling the London bullion bankers that Russia was now on to them:

<http://www.gata.org/node/4235>

The big question seems to be whether and when Eastern central banks will pull the plug on the Western central bank gold price suppression scheme. The most likely answer seems to be: When they feel that they have adequately hedged their U.S. dollar-denominated foreign exchange reserves and have acquired the last gold ounce they can acquire without exploding the gold market so much that even mainstream financial news organizations in the West have to take notice.

The China Network Television report, dated April 16, as jumbled by the Internet translator, is posted at Koos Jansen's Internet site here:

<http://koosjansen.blogspot.nl/2013/08/chinese-state-press-on-how-fed-has...>

CHRIS POWELL, Secretary/Treasurer

Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee Inc.

The Economic Ruin of the Klamath and Its Tributaries a future “Model” for American Industry

The Tip of the Green Spear

by John Martinez, Happy Camp, Pioneer Press - September 24, 2003 and September 6, 2006

Calculated and targeted shortages of natural resource inputs designed to destabilize the industrial chain and over legislating the value-added processes of those resources is the green road map to a socialist utopia. Increasing the power of unregulated bureaucracies to disrupt our economic machine is the fundamental element within the green strategy to capitulate our nation. The greens have tragically positioned the leftist courts and bureaucracies to determine the course of our Nation rather than the people's will from within the confines of a constitutional republic. The economic dislocation program within the Klamath River system is a “how to” model in the destruction of broad-based, diverse rural economies. The legal precedents established in the destruction of the Klamath Basin may be applied across industries and geographies beyond this region itself. The communities along the Klamath River and its tributaries are battling for the future of our nation - - The Klamath Basin is a proving ground in the destruction of American agriculture and industry. The battle over the Klamath is forefront in the fight for American Sovereignty and the destiny of our Nation.

Why have the greens expended so many resources on “saving” the Klamath? At the ground level many environmentalists believe it is to “save” the environment. Many rank and file environmentalists believe it is the diversity that is so important. Yes, diversity is the key element but it is diversity of governmental jurisdiction not flora and fauna that is so important. Again, why have the greens thrown every conceivable resource into the fight to destroy the Klamath economies?

The answer involves the myriad jurisdictional challenges or opportunities that characterize the region. Local, state, inter-state, inter-agency, federal and tribal interests contribute to governing the Klamath. Comprehending the importance and magnitude of the Klamath and its tributaries to our nation's security lies within understanding the diversity of collective governmental interests. If the greens can forge an extra-constitutional “silver bullet” to slay rural economies within the multi-jurisdictional quagmire of the Klamath, they will become an unstoppable and indomitable force in the destruction of rural America. The development and execution of shutting down economic interests in the Klamath is a means to create a holistic and widely applicable working legal model that will spread economically ruinous policy to the remainder of our nation.

The green's regional objective, the Klamath and its tributaries, is to create a body of legal arguments and inter-agency cooperative agreements that will promote anti-western public policy superceding local, state, regional and federal jurisdictions. Publicly greens cloak their intentions under the guise of “saving” the environment while their true objective is to control the factors of production. Control over all natural resource-based activities is their sacred oath. Control over basic industrial inputs will empower them to segment and weaken our nation's productive base. Once Klamath communities are “pacified” through completely wresting control away from local jurisdictions, the Klamath Basin “model” will be applied, by judicial interpretation and oversight, to other resource-based economies.

The greens have soundly defeated local rights by thwarting constitutional guarantees and protections in their drive to pacify rural America. How have the greens trumped our system? How

have the greens been able to twist the arms of bureaucracies, elected officials among others? The greens are using Tribes to do their bidding for an end that is just outside the grasp of the Tribes to fully appreciate. By inflaming historical animosities against the western world, crying anti-Native, and ordaining Tribes with extra-constitutional powers the greens have positioned Tribes to undermine the long-term interests of the US.

The green movement and its leftist ideologues have successfully gained control over tribal councils through a mix of tactics. Pro-Western, neighbor friendly and anti-drug Tribal council members have taken a back seat to radical greens, separatists and those that believe drugs are a cultural icon of independence. Beyond controlling tribal councils through intimidation and blackmail, the greens may have co-opted Tribal leadership with promises of expansive land settlements. Tribes are under the belief that to get their lands they must undermine local economies and private property rights.

Have Tribal leaders been promised land swap deals in exchange for shutting down local farming interests, destroying private property rights and promoting deep ecology? Perhaps that's a question our elected officials need to explore? Do our local officials understand what regulates the political economy of Tribes? What if Tribal leaders are in bed with radical environmentalists in a quid pro quo arrangement? Do our elected officials have an obligation to defend their oath and speak freely to the public as to the state of affairs within their jurisdictions?

The use of Suckerfish, Coho salmon, and other Native "religious" and/or "cultural" icons represent tactical implements in the broader strategy to use Native theocracy to destroy the underlying foundation of the American economy. It's not about fish and its not about helping Natives, it's about destruction of the resource economies that feed our factories raw materials. It's about destroying our self-reliance through fragmenting our ability to feed, clothe and shelter our people. The greens want to deride American sovereignty through the establishment of a strong check and balance system made up of multi-national cooperative agreements.

That means if the US must go to war to defend its interests, we had better have the full support of Second and Third world nations. If other nations fail to support our war efforts, then the intricate supply chain our military relies to wage war will be broken. Forcing our nation to her knees so as to be at the mercy of other nations is treason. The greens' ultimate narcotic is to see our Nation and our countrymen controlled by international socialists made up of Second and Third World states.

Tribes have become the razor's edge of the tip of the green spear, as they are impenetrable and protected by a collective guilt gilded in political correctness. The greens have cleverly controlled Tribes in a behind the scenes manipulation of public policy makers and government funding streams. Have the Federal authorities ever really scrutinized Tribal environmental claims that shut down timber, mining or farming? Have Tribes promoted anti-Agricultural and anti-American policy in closed door "government to government negotiations?" Why are non-elected officials engaged in closed door "government to government negotiations" that literally circumvent the constitution? Do road closures, salamander restrictions and a host of other regional job killers originate from these "government to government" negotiations?

If the greens have their way in the Klamath they will have a replicable model to devolve our economic system that ultimately undermines our nation's security. The fight over the Klamath represents the tip of the green spear pointed at the very heart of our homeland.

John Martinez

Happy Camp

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The Sierra Club has released its "Cool Schools" rankings based on the 'greenness' of participating universities, and Oregon State University has the highest green ranking in the state, and is listed as 11th in the nation, rising from 24th in 2010.

Read more here <http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2013/aug/osu-ranked-11th-nation-%E2%80%9Ccool-school%E2%80%9D-sierra-club-green-efforts>



Klamath Falls Mess, Judge denies livestock access to water

8/11/13 Western Montana Water Rights by Erika Bentsen

<https://westernmtwaterrights.wordpress.com/2013/08/11/klamath-falls-mess-judge-denies-livestock-access-to-water/#comments>

<http://www.klamathbasin crisis.org/UK/2013/klamathmessjudgedenieslivestockaccess081313.htm>

In a ruling June 13, 2013 county circuit court Judge Cameron Wogan in Klamath Falls, Oregon refused ranchers' requests for a temporary restraining order (TRO) to allow their cattle and horses access to drinking water. Irrigation water out of the Sprague, Williamson, and Wood Rivers, and their tributaries were shut off in June after new tribal calls on rivers and streams feeding Klamath Lake left grazing lands and hay fields baking in the sun. In many cases, irrigation ditches are the sole source of drinking water for the 100,000 head of cattle which graze the basin area in the summer months. Since the unprecedented calls stem from merely a determination from an administrative law judge without being heard in a formal court, Elizabeth Howard, lawyer for a group of ranchers in the upper basin, asked for the June 13 hearing in circuit court. She argued for at the very least a 24 hour TRO to run pumps long enough to supply drinking water to give ranchers a chance to find alternative pastures or line up trucks to ship their cattle out of the county. But Judge Wogan denied this request.

TEMPORARY FIX

It wasn't until July 2, 2013 the Oregon Cattlemen's Association put enough pressure on OWRD, forcing them to expedite assembling a commission to allow a minimal amount of water to be used for thirsty livestock. But even this will expire in 6 months.

THE LAST 12 YEARS

Much has happened in the years following the 2001 water shut offs in the Klamath Basin and none of it is very good. When Kimberly Strassel's article on Rural Cleansing first appeared in the Wall Street Journal it was farmers in the lower Klamath basin coming under assault by the federal government and local Indian tribes. The Klamath area is made up of an upper basin with cattle ranches above Klamath Lake, the largest surface area lake in Oregon, and farms below the lake in the lower basin.

BACKGROUND

These farms, known as the "Project," were established by the federal government for veterans returning home after WWI & II. Farm lots were won by lottery and the irrigation system of canals was set up with a 1905 water right, regardless of what year the acreage it supplied was put into production.

In 2001, the Project farmers' water was called because of the Endangered Species Act protection of two species of sucker fish, previously known universally as an inedible, bottom dwelling, trash fish, now elevated to sacred status by the tribes. At that point, upper basin ranchers united with the lower basin farmers and protested the shut offs. When the community was joined as a united front, the government and tribes backed down and the water was restored for the time being.

SO THEN THE TACTICS CHANGED

Exclusive meetings were held--quietly--between government agencies, environmental groups and the tribes. The public was not allowed to attend, nor were they permitted to know the context of the delegations. An oversight? Doubtful.

In a gesture of accord, a few key Project farmers were eventually invited, then a couple carefully selected upper basin ranchers, some of whom received annual salaries by tribal subsidiaries. But these meetings remained closed to the public.

Then the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) was unveiled with pomp and promise. This "Agreement," a tedious, several hundred page document was supposed to solve the water problems and create harmony between environmentalists, tribes, government agencies, and agriculture. But what did it really do?

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

When wading through the reams of acronyms and legalese, the document is long on presumptions and short on guarantees. A 50 year end date came to light.

Why? If it was a good idea, why set it up to stop?

Another choice nugget: only the invited attendees of these secret talks received any benefits. The others who were barred from admittance were put on the chopping block. Upper basin ranchers, local businesses, average taxpayers, and utility customers were left high and dry.

Project farmers, influenced by their elected representatives, turned on the upper basin ranchers and cut a deal with the tribes. If the Project farmers signed on to

the KBRA and helped the tribes get a new 90,000 acre reservation and tear out 4 power generating dams on the Klamath River, the tribes would call the upper basin's water, predominantly dated 1864, and not call the Project's 1905 water, thus taking the water from the senior water rights holders and giving it to the juniors. Even though the tribe's water calls are for an in-stream use only, they are by-passing this law and funneling the water to their new friends downstream who irrigate out of Klamath Lake. Oregon's "first in time, first in line" water adjudication has been thrown out the window and the tribes, in bed with the feds and state officials, are getting away with it.

QUICK LEARNERS

The tribes learned fast. They altered their original claims on the river system to closer match the state's standards. Then in March of 2013 thanks to an administrative law judge, a lackey of OWRD, the tribes were awarded time-immemorial rights to what amounts to nearly flood level flows. With this the tribes have essentially halted all irrigation in the upper basin. Using tribal claim data, upper basin irrigators would have been shut off 89 of the last 95 years.

The tribes and government, hiding behind the skirts of the KBRA, successfully divided the community by pitting farmer against rancher, and neighbor against neighbor. The government and tribes learned from their original failure when only one group was attacked. By dangling incentives to some, they splintered their opposition. And they continue peppering the public with half-truths and misinformation, muddying the waters so that the average citizen doesn't know which group stands for what.

PRECEDENT SETTING

What's scary is the precedence being set. If these tribal claims are validated by the court system, no river in the country is safe. Other tribes throughout the nation are watching the Klamath water fight with interest. Once precedence is established here, it makes it easy to attack other rivers.

These family ranchers were specifically targeted because they aren't wealthy. Families are being forced into bankruptcy since their sole source of income is being taken away while the legal battles slowly grind on with delays and hearings and time-wasting lawyers.

In essence they are presumed guilty and punished without ever going to trial. The tribes, with their \$12 million a year kickback from the feds in addition to their casino earnings, can afford to drag this out in court while the individual family rancher goes broke before the case even gets heard.

AN INDUSTRY DIVIDED

The upper basin ranchers are fighting this alone. Their only ally, the Project farmers, have been turned against them. Unity was what made the 2001 shut

offs unsuccessful in the eyes of the tribes and federal government. So unity has been destroyed.

The ranchers have their backs up against the wall. This was a calculated move by the tribes, with more egregious hardships planned in the coming months.

Ranchers have been holding raffles, auctions, and bake sales to get money for their defense.

CARE TO LEND A HAND?

Donations from outside the Klamath Falls area are desperately needed to stop this unconstitutional taking of private property. For those who are able to help with legal funding, www.saveourklamathcountywater.org accepts donations on ranchers' behalf. Click "Join Us" and make checks payable to Water For Life Foundation.

Gold rush-era discards could fuel cellphones, TVs

TRACIE CONE **AP**

<http://news.yahoo.com/gold-rush-era-discards-could-fuel-cellphones-tvs-133752521.html>



SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Across the West, early miners digging for gold, silver and copper had no idea that one day something else very valuable would be buried in the piles of dirt and rocks they tossed aside.

There's a rush in the U.S. to find key components of cellphones, televisions, weapons systems, wind turbines, MRI machines and the regenerative brakes in hybrid cars, and old mine tailings piles just might be the answer. They may contain a group of versatile minerals the periodic table called rare earth elements.

"Uncle Sam could be sitting on a gold mine," said Larry Meinert, director of the mineral resource program for the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Va.

The USGS and Department of Energy are on a nationwide scramble for deposits of the elements that make magnets lighter, bring balanced hues to fluorescent lighting and color to the touch screens of smartphones in order to break the Chinese stranglehold on those supplies.

They were surprised to find that the critical elements could be in plain sight in piles of rubble otherwise considered eyesores and toxic waste. One era's junk could turn out to be this era's treasure.



In this undated photo released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture are rare-earth oxides, clockwise from top center: praseodymium, cerium, lanthanum, neodymium, samarium, and gadolinium.

"Those were almost never analyzed for anything other than what they were mining for," Meinert said. "If they turn out to be valuable that is a win-win on several fronts — getting us off our dependence on China and having a resource we didn't know about."

The 15 rare earth elements were discovered long after the gold rush began to wane, but demand for them only took off over the past 10 years as electronics became smaller and more sophisticated. They begin with number 57 Lanthanum and end with 71 Lutetium, a group of metallic chemical elements that are not rare as much as they are just difficult to mine because they occur in tiny amounts and are often stuck to each other.

Unlike metals higher up on the table such as silver and gold, there's no good agent for dissolving elements so closely linked in atomic structure without destroying the target. It makes mining for them tedious and expensive.

"The reason they haven't been explored for in the U.S. was because as long as China was prepared to export enough rare earths to fill the demand, everything was fine — like with the oil cartels. When China began to use them as a political tool, people began to see the vulnerability to the U.S. economy to having one source of rare earth elements," said Ian Ridley, director of the USGS Central Mineral and Environmental Resources Science Center in Colorado.

Two years ago, China raised prices — in the case of Neodymium, used to make Prius electric motors stronger and lighter, from \$15 a kilogram in 2009 to \$500 in 2011, while Dysprosium oxide used in lasers and halide lamps went from \$114 a kilogram in 2010 to \$2,830 in 2011. It's also about the time China cut off supplies to Japan, maker of the Prius, in a dispute over international fishing territory.



In this 1905 photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey is a channel in bedrock worn by tailings of the Cherokee hydraulic mine in Butte County, Calif. Across the West, early miners digging for gold, silver and copper had no idea that one day something even more valuable would be hidden in the piles of dirt and rocks they tossed aside.

That's when the U.S. government went into emergency mode and sent geologists to hunt for new domestic sources.

"What we have is a clash of supply and demand. It's a global problem. A growing middle class around the world means more and more people want things like cellphones," said Alex King, director of the Critical Materials Institute of the Department of Energy's Ames Research Lab in Iowa. "Our job is to solve the problem any way we can."

At the University of Nevada-Reno and the Colorado School of Mines, USGS scientists used lasers to examine extensive samples of rocks and ore collected across the West during the gold rush days by geologists from Stanford University and Cal Tech.

"If we could recycle some of this waste and get something out of it that was waste years ago that isn't waste today, that certainly is a goal," said Alan Koenig, the USGS scientist in charge of the tailings project.

One sample collected in 1870 from an area near Sparks, Nev., where miners had searched for a viable copper vein, has shown promise and has given researchers clues in the search for more. They have found that some rare earths exist with minerals they had not previously known occur together.

"The copper mine never went into production, but now after all of this time we've analyzed it and it came back high with Indium, which is used in photovoltaic panels. It never economically produced copper, but it gives us insight into some associations we didn't previously recognize," Koenig said.

Indium also has been found in the defunct copper mine that dominates the artsy southern Arizona town of Bisbee.

Koenig and his colleagues are working to understand the composition of all of the nation's major deposits sampled over the past 150 years. In some cases, the mines were depleted of gold or copper, but the rocks left piled alongside mines and pits could hold a modern mother lode.

"We're revisiting history," he said.

They are compiling data from 2,500 samples to better understand whether it's possible to predict where rare earths might be hiding based on the presence of other elements there, too.



[In this 1905 photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey are tailings from hydraulic mines on Spring creek in Nevada County, California](#)

"If I had to venture a number, I'd say we have found several dozen new locations that are elevated in one or more critical metals," Koenig said. "With this project the goal would be to have this large data base available that would allow us to predict and to form new associations."

Currently there is only one U.S. mine producing rare earths— at Mountain Pass in the Southern California desert. Molycorp Inc.'s goal in reopening the defunct mine is 20,000 metric tons of rare earth elements by this summer, including cerium oxide used to polish telescope lenses and other glass.

The USGS is counting on companies like Molycorp to use the information they've gleaned to uncover other easy-to-reach deposits sitting on federal land and elsewhere.

"Without rare earths we'd be back to having black-and-white cellphones again," said the USGS's Ridley.

Siskiyou County Fights for Independence

by [Ron Brown](#) August 13, 2013 KDRV

<http://www.klamathbasincrisis.org/jefferson/2013/siskifightsforindependence081313.htm>

YREKA, Calif. — A standing-room only crowd that spilled into the hallway of the Siskiyou County courthouse was on hand Tuesday to voice support for a plan to start over again.

"I'm before you to ask support and an affirmative vote on a resolution to withdraw Siskiyou County from the state of California," Mark Baird stated, President of Scott Valley Protect Our Water. "We could have a chance to start over, to go back to basic government."

A pair of similar proposals are circulating. One, to begin again to form a new state from Northern California counties. The other, to withdraw as many counties as possible from the state and its rules, and begin again.

"Over regulation by both state and federal agencies are destroying our economy and our culture and our way of life," Callahan resident, Liz Bowen, said. "Those who agree with this please raise your hand".

"I would encourage you to stand up and make yourselves known; nationally, maybe we need to ring the bell for rural communities that we've had enough," Scott Valley rancher, Rich Marshall added.

"There comes a time when we have to stand up and say, 'No! What you're doing is wrong!'" county supervisor, Marcia Armstrong, said.

"I don't want to be here 40 years from now just talking about the State of Jefferson," county supervisor, Michael Kobseff, declared. "I want it to happen!"

It almost did. On the eve of World War II, in 1941, a provisional governor was elected, but the effort died in favor of uniting the nation for war.

There are actually two parallel proposals, one to reconstitute the county government, and in turn, most of the state government, and the other to go back to the plan that would create a State of Jefferson. Both of those have the same goals in mind, to bring local control back to Siskiyou County.

Supervisors are expected to vote on a resolution in support of the "start over" proposal at their September 3rd meeting.

Something to Think About!!!

**"Just because you do not take an interest in politics
doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."**

~Pericles 495BC - 429BC

Mob Rule Dressed in a Coat and Tie

by Nick G, March 05, 2013

<http://us-mg4.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=5v7ft3abgbdqu#mail>

It has been said that democracy is nothing more than mob rule dressed in a suit and tie.

It only takes 51% of the people to agree to restrict the rights of the rest of the 49%.

And with nearly 50% of the people in most Western countries living off the government dole in some fashion, we are about to cross the Rubicon if we haven't already.

The mob usually has little concern for the rights of individuals not included in it.

China reportedly planning to back the yuan with gold

The reports have not been confirmed officially, but analysts are warning that the step, if taken, will weaken the yuan and destabilise China's already troubled economy, ultimately provoking a new bout of the economic crisis worldwide.

Beijing's possible move to back the yuan with gold would not be meant as a strategic measure to strengthen the national currency and increase its attractiveness as an investment medium. Rather, it would be a flaunt aimed at demonstrating to the world (and to the USA in particular) that China is capable of taking the risks associated with a departure from the dollar standard. Experts warn however that, apart from benefiting no-one, such a decision may actually have catastrophic consequences.

Separating the yuan exchange rate from the US dollar may further weaken the American currency in the long run; in addition, China's monetary policy would become very much restricted, believes Evgeny Nadorshin, chief economist at AFK Sistema.

This rather strange news item showed up on the *Russia: Beyond the Headlines* website on Thursday...and I'm not sure what to make of it. It may be true, but I can't imagine China broadcasting it in advance. I thank reader 'David in California' for bringing it to our attention.

[Read more...](#)

http://rbth.asia/business/2013/07/17/china_reportedly_planning_to_back_the_yuan_with_gold_47997.html

Silver outperforming gold as precious metals prices rise

Weakness in the dollar, together with what appears to be a boost to Chinese industrial growth on the latest data, with a reduction in talk of Fed tapering has led to a mini-surge in the gold price, while silver has done even better living up to its tendency to outperform gold on the up. For those who follow it, the gold:silver ratio has come back from around 65-66 to closer to 61 and if the silver price rise continues there could be scope for the ratio to fall further still.

Indeed we seem to be seeing a resurgence in momentum in silver buying. Recent reports point to a huge increase in silver demand in India as the government attempts, only partially successfully, to stem gold imports by implementing sharp tax increases on them. Silver imports thus appear to be rising sharply as there are no such import tariffs applied to them. Meanwhile outflows from silver ETFs which took place when the prices tanked have also staged a really strong recovery, sales of U.S. silver bullion coins have also

remained very high indeed and have been at record levels suggesting investor interest in both East and West is running strong again.

This commentary by Lawrence Williams over at the *mineweb.com* yesterday should be on your **must read** list. There's nothing really new here, but Lawrie summarized everything nicely in one short article.

[Read more...](#)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/content/en/mineweb-silver-news?oid=200851&sn=Detail>

Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

The Millennium Diggers Club is a group based in Keizer, Oregon, which is near Salem, Oregon. The club is for people that share an interest in searching for things of value. The club's charter is to provide members with a club that will help promote the hobbies of metal detecting, prospecting, rock hounding, and treasure hunting. Part of our yearly dues pay for mining claims that are available for all club members to use. We use club meetings to share information about locating gold, silver, coins, jewelry, gemstones, fossils and metal detecting. We plan club outings each month where we can help each other learn all aspects of our hobbies. This is a great family activity, bring the kids! Please feel free to drop in on one of the monthly meetings or outings.

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m, at:

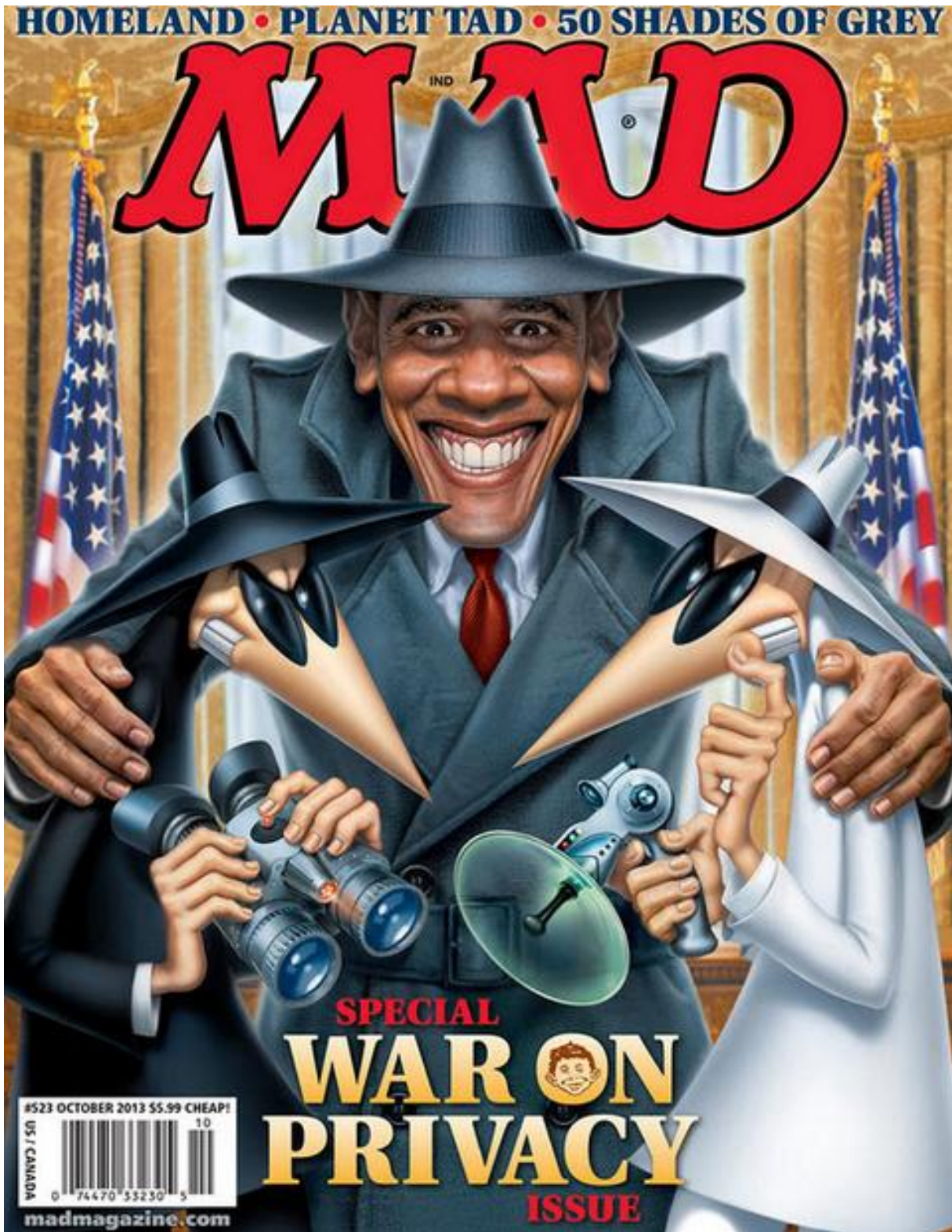
Clear Lake United Methodist Church

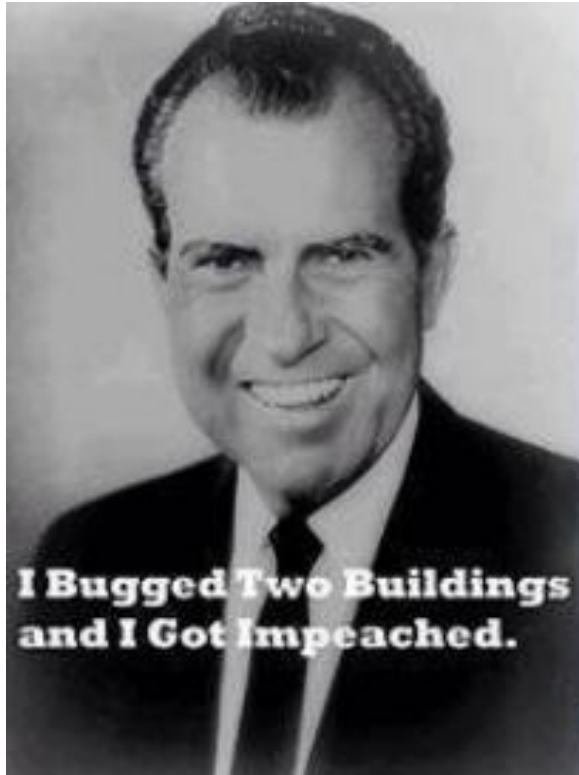
920 Marks Drive

Keizer, OR 97303

We meet in the church's Fellowship Hall; a real a nice meeting place complete with tables, chairs and a kitchen. The church is located across the street from the Clear Lake Fire Station. There's plenty of parking in the church's parking lot.

Things to Ponder





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Closing Thought

When mining think and act like the following!

