

1140 Carbon Junction #7
Durango, CO, 81301

April 2, 2012

Mr. Wally Erickson
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
691 County Rd. 233 ste.A-2
Durango, CO. 81301

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Durango Field Office
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Dear Mr. Erickson

I am writing you in regards to file M-1981-185, the May Day and Idaho Mine Complex in Wildcat Canyon. There has been a lot of discussion on the May Day and Idaho Mines and a number of people have expressed their concerns about the project. In a recent press release the President of Varca Ventures announced that the Colorado Board of Mining and Reclamation issued them its first gold mine permit since 1984. I along with several others am concerned about the environmental impacts the May Day Idaho Mine Complex will have on the majestic Wildcat Canyon. Mount Hesperus is a sacred mountain to several indigenous groups; its cultural significance is at the heart of many protesters battle to stop these mining operations. Mining in the area is not a new issue the Idaho Mine was founded in 1902. Because the area has been mined in the past many people believe there is no harm in doing it again. I disagree; additional degradation to Wildcat Canyon will have a significant impact on its residents and supporters. Supporters of keeping the beautiful Wildcat Canyon off of the United States ever growing superfund sites list say the May Day Idaho Mine Complex must be stopped. Many are concerned about the adverse impacts that mining will have on the visual appeal of the landscape, tourism and the local economy. The Mines will most certainly diminish the quality of life of every living thing in the area. Pollution is an inevitable byproduct of mining no matter how "green" it may be. The water quality has already diminished and Varca Ventures assures residents there is no need to worry. The Durango Water Authority provides 1200 homes with water that is taken from the La Plata River about 4 miles downstream from the May Day Idaho Mine Complex. That means those 1200 homes are all going to be receiving water that is contaminated with toxins from the May Day Idaho mining operations. If that is not cause for concern I do not know what is. The May Day Idaho Mine Complex must be stopped, the people running the mining operations are not local residents and therefor do not have to live with the direct consequences of their actions. I am asking that you concenter the lives of those who will be effected by the mines and that you do everything in your power to stop the devastation of one of Colorado's most beautiful areas.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Schumacher
Student at Fort Lewis College
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Kelsey Schumacher



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