

RESOLUTION NO. 03-33

IMPACT OF PROPOSED ROCK CREEK MINE
ON LAKE PEND OREILLE WATER QUALITY

WHEREAS, Sterling Mining Company is proposing to construct a large copper/silver mine in the Rock Creek drainage of the Cabinet Mountains, located in the lower Clark Fork basin, 25 miles upstream from Lake Pend Oreille; and,

WHEREAS, Using the proposed wastewater treatment systems, up to 3 million gallons per day of mine wastewater would be discharged into the Clark Fork River. The waste water discharge raises concerns of pollution to the Clark Fork River and Pend Oreille Lake; and,

WHEREAS, Potential degradation to the watershed could result from perpetual seepage from the tailings impoundment, which would be unlined and located next to the Clark Fork River and Rock Creek; and,

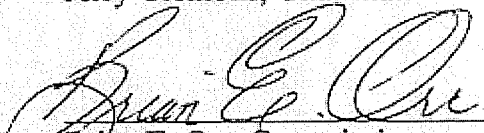
WHEREAS, The economy of Bonner County is dependent to a large degree on the vitality of Lake Pend Oreille; and,


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The County Commissioners of Bonner County, charged by law with protecting the health and safety of its citizens, hereby express opposition to the development of the Rock Creek mine as currently proposed. The County Commissioners continue to have extreme concerns regarding the potential pollution of Lake Pend Oreille by the proposed mine.

Regularly passed and approved this 26 day of June, 2003.

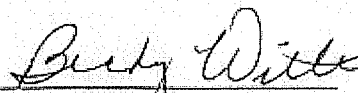
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Jerry Clemons, Chairman


Brian E. Orr, Commissioner


Marcia L. Phillips, Commissioner

ATTEST: Marie Scott

By: 
Becky Witte, Deputy Clerk