

# THE GOLD NUGGET

August 2023

## **The Prez Sez! By Bobby Manning**



Greetings to all. It is now mid-summer and it sure has gotten hot. The water has come down so the bored folks will want to look at doing some prospecting. The Phoenix Mine was a nice place to cool off for a bit. Had six members come up to the mine and we had to wait for a couple to get there due to the traffic and construction. So we did the 10:30 tour and while waiting, you had the chipmunks feeding on the sun flower seeds. They would get a jaw full then run off to eat the stash of seeds. By the time winters comes, they should weigh about 5 pounds. There were a lot of hummingbirds there as well. Then we finally did the tour and went over to do some panning in the creek. We had to get down about 12'' before I finally found some color, found about fifty pieces of very fine gold and ended up giving them to a young kid from Nebraska. Then we stopped and had lunch with Bill for his birthday. Received a call to let me know that they got home safe and sound, in all was a great day. On a bad note, I received another call from the Higbee Law people about the other photo they are complaining about. I WASN'T VERY HAPPY about it and I told them if they wanted any more money, were going to need to take us to court! So we will see what happens. The Club Auction raised \$557.00 which covered the cost with a little to spare and we still have the Blue Bowl to sell. It looks like the Pirate's Hunt is doing well. Everyone seems to enjoy finding some coins, jewelry and trash. Many thanks to Bob for doing that. You should try to get out on the next hunt as they are all having lots of fun. So KEEP YOUR HATS ON, WET A TOWEL, FIND A TREE FOR SHADE TO KEEP A LITTLE COOL, or even just get a glass of ice water for a two second cooling off! Keep your pan shiny with that yellow GOLD AND SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT MEETING.

## **Vice President's Corner! By Mike Stevens**



The summer seems to be flying by exceptionally fast and it finally looks like the water is coming down in the creeks, so better opportunities are available searching for gold. There haven't been many club outings this summer, but one event that took place in July was Kevin Singel's book celebration in Idaho Springs. He was signing books and there were lots of people there to celebrate the success of his first book. The traffic on I-70 was absolutely horrible and I was an hour and a half late, but luckily I was still able to help with the panning demo GPR was sponsoring. I always enjoy it when I see people who have never panned getting that first glimpse of shiny gold at the bottom, especially when it's a child. I feel that Kevin's first book "Finding Gold in Colorado: Prospector's Edition" is invaluable. It's a great tool with lots of information, especially for beginners, but also seasoned people will find it helpful. What's nice is if you get to visit some of the places in his book, he's checked them out and has done the initial leg work for us. I recommend it highly to anyone at any level of gold prospecting. I also enjoyed reading his second book "Finding Gold in Colorado: The Wandering Prospector". There will be many places he describes that I will never get to visit, but it's exciting to know the possibility is always there. If you're in an area where he says it's good for gold panning, maybe take a chance and try your luck in a new spot. This was an enjoyable outing and it was well worth the aggravating traffic to be there to celebrate Kevin's success. We're lucky to have someone with such valuable information in our club. Congratulations Kevin! Golden Smiles for All!

## **From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka**



Enjoyed the July meeting and we had a good turnout. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time which I have at my table in the back whenever you wish to see it. Hope to see you all at the next meeting in August when we will be giving away more gold nuggets and great door prizes! Don't forget to buy your 'Special nugget' tickets and your '.50/50 tickets' as well. See you all at our next meeting.



**Board Meeting Minutes from Jul 2023**

X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll	X	Robert Ahr		Joe Johnson
X	Mike Stevens	X	Joe Kafka	X	Kevin Singel		
	Mike Hurtado	X	Gordon Smith	X	Roger Schlenger		

The meeting was called to order by President Manning at 5:57 p.m. with a quorum present

First item of business was to read & approve the minutes from last month. Before they were voted on to accept, a discussion took place on the open question from last month regarding a possible discrepancy in the treasurer’s report of \$500. Joe Kafka was called into the meeting from the ticket table so he could clarify for the members present. It was explained to the board’s satisfaction and President Manning will make a change to the formula used by his software to avoid any missing data in the future. Mike Stevens moved the minutes be accepted and Roger Schlenger seconded. Motion was approved.

Next item: Treasurer’s Report. As carried over from the clarification made during the discussion of the minutes from last month, the \$500 amount had to do with the alleged copyright infringement settlement paid by the club to Higbee & Associates. The board is satisfied that the funds are accounted for and properly disbursed. Mike Stevens moved to accept the Treasurer’s report and it was seconded by Kevin Singel. Motion was approved.

The next topic was on correspondence received by the club and President Manning brought up a phone call from the Railroad Museum in Golden asking about the club putting on a gold panning demo at the museum. Unfortunately, they balked at the club’s hourly rate of \$100 for panning demos and will be looking elsewhere. The second contact was an email from Higbee Associates asking if we had permission to use the second photograph in the newsletter that brought them knocking on our door in the first place. A lively discussion occurred relating to these lawyers being scam artists and several board members fully expected them to be threatening us again, just not so soon. Unfortunately, they are not actually breaking the law with these shakedowns due to the doctrine of “casting a wide net” in order to protect their clients. President Manning called the person he had originally worked with at Higbee and stated in no uncertain terms that they had settled with us for \$500 and no additional monies would be forthcoming. Some discussion also took place on what next steps the club might take should Higbee send us a notice of Intent to Sue.

Web hits total is up to 164,245. Hits from the last 30 days numbered 168.

Committee Reports and other club business:

- Kevin Singel was contacted by a Colorado Springs TV station wanting to do a feature story on prospecting around Denver. He brought this to the board so that club members could be involved if they desired. The producer gave several dates and from the discussion among the board, only October 21<sup>st</sup> appears to work. There was also discussion as to whether the story could be done at Vic’s Gold Panning and possibly coincide with Gold-a-Palooza. Based on Kevin’s discussion with the station, it sounds like they want to concentrate on panning sites around the Denver area. Kevin will follow up and report back at the next meeting.
- Roger Schlenger asked if the club would be willing to donate raffle items to Gold-a-Palooza and President Manning reminded Roger that due to issues encountered last year, which he did not go into during the meeting, the club prefers to only promote club activities.
- Robert Ahr spoke to his research on the Phoenix Mine tours as a club activity. The date decided on by the board is July 29 and a signup sheet will be announced and placed on the head table at tonight’s meeting. The cost is \$18 per person and it starts at 10 a.m. Members interested in taking the tour are encouraged to bring their own shovel, pan and classifier as you are allowed to prospect on the company property after completing the tour.

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

In 1925, an important invention that incorporated gold was patented which would eventually lead to all of the microelectronics that are in use today. What was that invention???

**2023 GPR Board of Directors Members**

- President**  
Bobby Manning
- Vice President**  
Mike Stevens
- Secretary/Treasurer**  
Joe Kafka
- 2 Year Board Members**  
Robert Ahr (2024)  
Andy Doll (2024)  
Gordon Smith (2024)
- 1 Year Board Members**  
Kevin Singel  
Roger Schlenger  
Vacant  
Vacant
- Past President**  
Joe Johnston



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 3

- President Manning spoke of the Edgar Mine tour (owned by Colo. School of Mines) that he has been investigating. The cost is \$25 per person. He also mentioned the individual that heads the program is willing to be a speaker at one of our meetings. Bobby is working on that and will report back next month.

### Unfinished Business:

As a way to thank the club for helping to make his book release party on the 15<sup>th</sup> a success, Kevin Singel donated ten of his new books to the club. Board members discussed the options open to us to best benefit the club for this generous donation. No formal motion was made, but it was decided to price the books at \$25 and sell them through the club store. This is a slight savings to club members over the \$25.95 suggested retail price. No objections were raised so the books will be on sale to the members starting tonight. Unfortunately, due to illness, the sales table will not be manned tonight.

Planned Outings was next on the agenda and in addition to what had already been discussed; the subject of a club picnic was raised. Covid, plus the need for scheduling local parks far in advance impacted the club having a picnic in recent years. There is a picnic area up the hill past the Phoenix Mine that is county owned. The board settled on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and President Manning will check if any permits are needed and take care of that process. He also volunteered to make smoked/barbequed brisket for the meat, which the club provides, along with drinks. A signup sheet for all of the “fixin’s” will need to be put out to the membership at next month’s meeting. [Location address: 445 West Dumont Road, Idaho Springs – off Exit235]

Individual members were offered the floor for any additional business to be brought up. No one had any other topics to discuss.

Kevin Singel will be tonight’s speaker. He will speak on sites in his new book and searching out claimable land.

Gordon Smith moved that the board meeting be adjourned. Kevin Singel seconded. So moved and we adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

## General Meeting Minutes from Jul 2023

1. **Meeting** was opened at 7:07pm by **Pres. Manning** with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Pres. Manning** then gave the Metals Report: **Gold** 1960.40 **Silver** 24.19 **Platinum** 966.00 **Palladium** 1273.00 **Rhodium** 3350.00 4. **Web hits** for last month was 164241 /168 .
3. **Treasurer Joe Kafka** reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. We also have a ‘Special Nugget’ so be sure to buy lots of tickets. It is a real nice specimen.
4. **Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes** from the Membership Table reported that we had 44 members in attendance. There were no Guests present and no new members joined up tonight. The total meeting attendance was 44.
5. **Pres. Manning** read the ‘Question of the Month’, which was “**Which is easier to find, a one ounce gold nugget or a 5 carat diamond???**” The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.
6. **Pres. Manning** advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the ‘**Finds of the Month**’ table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2023. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.
7. **Bill Chapman** announced the ‘**Cache Clue**’ # 8.
8. **Pres. Manning** advised that the Club Store had numerous items for sale including 10 of Kevin Singel’s new books which he donated to the Club for their help at his event in Idaho Springs. Be sure to drop by at the break and support your Club by buying something. We have some more of our gold bags as of tonight so be sure to buy your bags.
9. **Pres. Manning** informed the membership that there were several Outings discussed. A tour of the Phoenix Mine in Idaho Springs will be held on July 29 and I signup sheet with details was on the front table.
10. **Pres. Manning** then announced the evening Program which was a discussion by Kevin Singel on his new book. The book plus his first one list more than 400 public access locations for the prospector to check out. Kevin was extremely informative, as usual, and there were a lot of questions from the membership. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break.
11. **Pres. Manning** announced the break at 8:15 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:33 pm.
12. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners of the ‘**Question of the Month**’. The answer was, “... a 5 carat diamond...! The winners received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.
13. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the ‘**Finds of the Month**’. Those were:
  - **Best Coin** – **Charles Borawa** with a 1942 Quarter he found while metal detecting in Highland’s Ranch.
  - **Best Jewelry** – **John Olson** with an ear ring he found while metal detecting in Thornton.



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 4

- **Best Mineral** – **Ray Vigil** with geodes he found near Wolf Creek Pass.
  - **Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with an old metal ID plate for a railroad Supply Comp. he found while metal detecting near Pueblo.
  - **Best Bottle** – There was no find submitted for this category in June.
  - **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with .07 grams of gold nuggets he found in the Blue River.
  - **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category in June.
14. **Pres. Manning** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, JJ Long and Pres. Manning**, followed by the drawings for the gold nuggets.
  15. **Pres. Manning** then conducted the **50/50 drawing** which was won by John Olson who won \$60.00.
  16. **Pres. Manning** also wants to remind that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **Joe Kafka and John Olson**.
  17. **Pres. Manning** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President’s time is overwhelmingly taken up by the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.
  18. **Pres. Manning** thanked **Greg and Nancy Knerl** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Each member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Don’t forget the ‘tip jar’ also, which helps to defray costs. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.
  19. **The August Meeting Program is to be determined.** Having nothing further at this time, remember to prospect safely.
  20. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.**

## A Miner’s Laugh

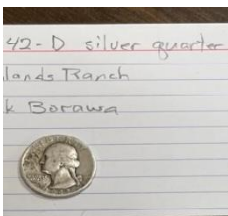
A little silver haired old lady calls her neighbor, an old retired miner and asked him if he would be able to come over to her house and help her out with a killer jig-saw puzzle that she just couldn’t figure out how to get it started. The old boy asked her what the puzzle was supposed to be when she was done and she told him it was supposed to be a rooster. So the old guy decided that he would go over and give the old gal some help with her puzzle. She let him in and took him to the kitchen where the puzzle was laid out on the kitchen table. He studied the pieces for a few minutes, looked at the box that the puzzle had come in, and then told her, “First of all, no matter how hard we try, we will never be able to assemble these pieces into anything that resembles a rooster.” Then he gently took her hand and said, “Secondly, I want you to sit down and relax. Let’s have a warm cup of coffee together, and then,” with a heavy sigh, he smiled at her and said, “We can put all the corn flakes back into the box...!!”



*(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us ‘old miners’)*

## The Finds of the Month July 2023:

- **Best Coin** – **Charles Borawa** with a 1942 Quarter he found while metal detecting in Highland’s Ranch.
- **Best Jewelry** – **John Olson** with an ear ring he found while metal detecting in Thornton.
- **Best Mineral** – **Ray Vigil** with geodes he found near Wolf Creek Pass.
- **Best Artifact** – **John Olson** with an old metal ID plate for a railroad Supply Comp. he found while metal detecting near Pueblo.
- **Best Bottle** – There was no find submitted for this category in June.
- **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with .07 grams of gold nuggets he found in the Blue River.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category in June.



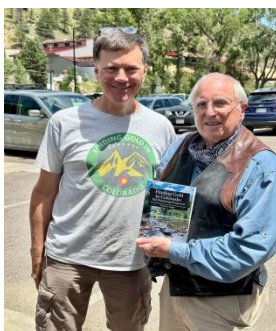


## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 5

Remember that all gold must be dried and weighed. All monthly winners need save their entries for the November meeting when the Finds of the Month will be judged for the Finds of the Year. So be sure and save them.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party of 'Finding Gold in Colorado'

On July 15, Board member Kevin Singel hosted the fifth anniversary of his book titled *Finding Gold in Colorado* at the Visitor Center in Idaho Springs. The event featured a book signing of the original book as well as signings of his new sequel book, *Finding Gold in Colorado: The Wandering Prospector*. In addition, members of the Gold Prospectors of the Rockies as well as members of the Foothills Chapter of the GPAA, all hosted some panning booths and sold a little gold and did a huge meet and greet with folks who stopped in to see Kevin and talk gold with the various Club members. There were several cakes and other goodies that appeared to bolster the celebration and quite a few people stopped in. The weather was great and it turned out to be a great day in so many different ways. Thanks to all who pitched in to make the day a great success. *Photos by Laura Hoepfner and Paul Schiffer.*



## The Pirate's July 26<sup>th</sup> Hunt

 by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello fellow Pirate's! Wednesday started off with a good Breakfast and we had 4 new members show up Joe and Chris K. along with John and Cindy O. We decided to stay close and went to Berkeley Park and hunted on the east side of the Park. We got up and running and the temperature was already pushing 80's. Hunter's started to leave early do to the heat or other commitments. Joe and I were the only one's left and it was only 1130hrs and 93 degrees. So we counted up are finds. Joe F. was top pirate on this day....Thanks to all of you coming out for the hunt and hope to see more of you in the future. *(Photos by Robert Ahr)*



## Phoenix Mine Tour

On July 29, Club members toured the Phoenix Mine out on the west end of Idaho Springs. The mine offers tours and gold panning for a nominal fee. It is owned by the Mosch family who are touted as the oldest continual operating mining family in the state of Colorado. Offering tours since 1988, the mine features the last vein discovered by the late Al Mosch and his son which is highly visible on the tour and you can see the actual gold within the vein. You need to be sure and make an offering to the 'Tommy Knockers' before you enter and as you leave the mine. It is all part of the rich history of Idaho Springs. And you get to pan in the creek outside the mine and hopefully get a little gold of your own. *(photos by JJ Long)*



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 6



### **Breckenridge Mining Cabin destroyed by USFS**

*Newspaper June 17, 2023*

By Ryan Spence *As reported in the Summit Daily*

Safety concerns prompted the Dillon Ranger District in Summit County to remove the Rainbow Mine Cabin, but Colorado's State Historic Office says the proper paperwork was not in place

For more than 100 years, a small cabin stood on a steep, tree-covered mountainside in Keystone Gulch.



When the 12-by-18 foot structure was first built in the early 1900s, it housed miners who would crawl into tight tunnels built into the hillside in search of gold, silver and other precious ores. Abandoned for decades, the Rainbow Mine cabin captured the imagination of at least a few of the hikers who stumbled upon it in the forest. Through the end of the 20th century and into the 21st, visitors installed new windows, a wood fire stove and hung a Colorado state flag on the wall.

Then, last fall, the U.S. Forest Service removed the roof and walls of the cabin, leaving little more than a foundation where the building once stood. “We’ve had a lot of problems over the years with the Rainbow cabin specifically because it’s up Keystone Gulch close to the (ski) resort,” Dillon Ranger District Ranger Adam Bianchi explained. “We’ve had people inhabiting the cabin. It’s a challenge to keep people from not living in there.” The cabin, Bianchi said, posed a potential liability for the Forest Service, leading officials in 2020 to begin the National Environmental Policy Act process required to partially demolish the structure. That process involved a public comment period on the proposal to remove the structure for safety reasons and required consultation with Colorado’s State Historic Preservation Office, he said. Forest Service officials claim that they consulted adequately with the State Historic Preservation Office. But the State Historic Preservation Office has indicated that it had not signed an agreement approving the Forest Service to tear down the cabin, which was determined to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Meanwhile, some locals who spent time at the Rainbow Mine cabin over the past several decades lamented the loss of a treasured spot when photos of the decommissioned cabin were posted this spring to a Summit County community Facebook page. “It’s sad news for the many people who made the steep hike up or the ski/ride down (to) enjoy the cozy place in history,” longtime Summit County resident Flip Brumm wrote in that post. “Here’s to the End of the Rainbow.” The history of Summit County is filled with mining lore. The moment gold was discovered around 1859 in this part of Colorado’s Rocky Mountains, people started flocking here by the hundreds and thousands, according to Breckenridge History Executive Director Larissa O’Neil. Breckenridge became a hub for the mining activity, but the industry expanded throughout the county, including large mining operations in Montezuma and smaller operations scattered throughout the Snake River basin and Keystone area. “Our mining history is all around us — the evidence from the prospectors and the underground miners and the dredge boats and the hydraulic mines,” O’Neil said. “We had all sorts of mines here — all aiming to get the same thing: gold and other products.” The Rainbow Mine, though, was not active during the “heyday of gold mining,” according to Forest Service archeologist Thomas Fuller. Established around 1910 or so, the mine would have been a hard rock mine, where adits or shafts were dug into the side of the mountain to get the ore straight from the source, he said. “It was a weird time in Summit County after the 1880s,” Fuller said. “The silver act came in, and silver was taken off the U.S. standard for currency. So that killed the mining business. Gold was still gold, and silver and other minerals were there. But it basically died out after that.” During the World War I and World War II era, hard rock mining had a resurgence in the Summit County region, Fuller said, with mines like Rainbow Mine popping up throughout the river basins. When the Forest Service did a historical inventory of the Rainbow Mine in fall 2021, the site consisted of the main lumber-frame cabin, an attached shed, a stable or barn-like structure, a well, the remnants of a privy, mine waste dumps and a couple of collapsed adits. “The site is characteristic of hundreds of small mines throughout the mining districts of Summit County, but very few of them are as well preserved as this nearly complete complex,” the Forest Service’s historic resource documentation on the Rainbow Mine states. A pair of Denver Post newspaper clippings dated



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 7

1922 that hung on the wall of the bunk-room cabin, “underscore the excellent condition of the site,” the historic resource documentation states. The Rainbow Mine does not appear to have been very successful. Production figures recorded for the mine show an output of 31 tons in 1916 and 37 tons in 1917, a “very small output,” according to the historical documents. The ore assayed at 2.39 and 1.43 ounces of gold and 1141 and 749 ounces of silver in each of those years, respectively, as well as small amounts of lead and copper. The workers who likely lived out of the bunk cabin during the mining years would have labored in the “difficult, dangerous, destructive and disgusting” conditions that were persistent throughout the mining era, O’Neil said. “This was not a flashy, ‘everyone is making it rich’ kind of place,” O’Neil said. “It was hard. Only a few did quite well.” The Rainbow Mine was found eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places in 2020. But when the Forest Service partially removed the cabin last fall, Colorado’s State Historic Preservation Office apparently did know that the demolition was happening. In fact, Chief Preservation Officer Patrick Eidman said in an email that the State Historic Preservation Office didn’t even know that the demolition had occurred until Summit Daily reached out this spring with questions. “Throughout the Section 106 process, SHPO indicated in various communications to the Forest Service that a MOA needed to be executed before the project could proceed,” Eidman said. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies like the Forest Service to first consider how a project may affect properties “included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places” before granting approval to the project. “At its core, Section 106 is an opportunity for a federal agency to understand local values and address the concerns of historic preservation stakeholders through consultation,” Eidman said. “By not fulfilling that mandate to work cooperatively — which is defined in federal law — an agency unnecessarily places historic properties at risk and fails to truly consider the opinions of those who are working to preserve and protect history in their communities.” When an agency fails to fulfill its Section 106 obligations, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation often gets involved to ensure such circumstances do not occur again, Eidman added. While Forest Service officials admit they skipped a step in the process, they say the State Historic Preservation Office’s role is only advisory and that safety concerns with the cabin took precedence during a busy time for staff members. Fuller, the White River National Forest’s heritage program manager, said that while the Forest Service never signed a memorandum of agreement — known as an MOA — with the State Historic Preservation Office, it did consult with that office. “I felt comfortable with the undertaking commencing considering previous and ongoing consultation, intention of completing the MOA, the availability of the work crew, and finally the desire to get it done before someone trespassed and squatted on the property once again,” Fuller said. Fuller shared emails between himself and State Historic Preservation Office officials with Summit Daily that, he says, show he consulted with the agency prior to the partial demolition of the cabin. In those emails, Fuller wrote that the Camp Hale National Monument designation tied up staff for weeks, leading to a time crunch to get a memorandum of agreement signed for the Rainbow Mine cabin removal. “I’m told that we will lose \$80k in funding for the removal of these cabins if (Colorado prison crew) can’t have the work approved for next week,” Fuller wrote to a State Historic Preservation Office official last October. Mitchell Schaefer, a Section 106 Compliance Manager with the State Historic Preservation Office, wrote back that he thinks the two agencies can get a memorandum of agreement signed. But that never happened. “Our e-mail messages with SHPO show that we were working with them on correcting the error skipping a step in the process, but it is important to know that the role of the SHPO is to advise and comment upon an agency’s determinations at each stage of the process,” Fuller said in email. “The SHPO does not have the authority to stop a project, but is entitled to obtain from agencies sufficient information upon which to comment.” Fuller said the Forest Service is working retroactively to get a memorandum of agreement signed for the Rainbow Mine cabin. The demolition of the cabin was only partially completed in order to preserve the history of the site, he said. “The history is still important,” Fuller said. “So we want some of that structure still there that points toward our culture and our history here in Summit County but isn’t too inviting a place for people to live in.” When Fuller first recounted the history of the Rainbow Mine cabin for Summit Daily, he noted that the structure had another local nickname, “Flip’s cabin,” but he couldn’t say where exactly it came from. Flip Brumm, though, knew where the nickname came from. Brumm, who lives on the outskirts of Silverthorne, has been visiting the cabin since he discovered it while hiking and rock climbing in Keystone Gulch in 1982. “There is a rock outcropping there that is fun to rock climb,” Brumm said. “That attracted me to go up that gully. Then, there is an obvious trail. I followed it and discovered the cabin. There was probably a foot of rat nest stuff all over. I cleared all that out and eventually cleaned it up.” Over the decades, Brumm was somewhat of a caretaker of the Rainbow Mine cabin. He said he would hike there almost once a month to help keep it tidy for overnight hikers. Brumm said he at one point installed new glass in the windows, and he and some friends moved a woodfire stove to the site years ago. In 1988, he even proposed to a girlfriend up there. “I would say I’ve been up there the most in the past 30 years,” Brumm said, “more than anybody else.” Former Keystone resident Mike Clary said he met Brumm when



## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 8

he and his wife stumbled upon the cabin for the first time around the year 2000. Clary, who described himself as an “amateur historian,” said for the better part of a decade he and his wife researched and hiked to more than 700 abandoned mining cabins in the Snake River basin, few of them in as good condition as the one near Rainbow Mine.

“When my wife and I first moved up there in about 1993, we were compulsive hikers, and we found a lot of old mine cabins,” Clary said. “We thought we should maybe document these because they are slowly deteriorating.” Clary spent hours doing research at the Bureau of Land Management’s Colorado State Office and said he kept extensive records of the mining sites he inventoried in the Snake River basin.

After he injured his leg hiking, Clary said he and his wife moved to California for its warmer climate since it wasn’t worth shoveling snow if he couldn’t ski. He, too, had no idea the Forest Service had torn down the walls of the cabin. “It’s like tearing up the history of the basin,” Clary said. “The people who are out here hiking, they don’t like just the trees and elk and deer. They also like some historic features. I find it a shame that the basic history, the mining history of the area, is being systematically removed.”

For his part, Brumm — who said he first heard of the Rainbow Mine cabin’s deconstruction from a friend this winter before checking it out himself this spring — sees the Forest Service’s “point with squatters habitating and fire danger.” But Brumm said he also remains disappointed with the loss of history — a place that provided shelter for many weary travelers over the years — which was chronicled through journals he kept there that visitors signed and decorated with artwork, comments and poetry.

“So many people enjoyed it. I don’t think it was hurting anybody,” Brumm said. “That was a lot of work to just leave that little bit. ... Now, it’s a demolition site.” Without the cabin there, Brumm said he doesn’t see much reason to ever return.

*(Photo courtesy of flip Brumm)*

## **Maine likely to amend its strict mining laws**

*the internet*

By Kate Cough Written June 18, 2023 Retrieved from

Maine looks set to amend its mining laws to exempt some metals from the state’s strict metallic mining regulations, provided developers can prove they won’t pollute nearby watersheds or cause other environmental harms in the process.

“I was incredibly hesitant to suggest any changes to the mining act,” said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Melanie Loyzim during the most recent work session on the bill that advanced to the House this week, LD 1363. But, she continued, “it became obvious what we had been thinking about all those years when we worked on the rule that we just hadn’t been thinking big picture enough.”

It will be at least a year, likely longer, before the changes take effect, and there will be ample opportunity for public input before that happens, said Loyzim. Because the changes are considered “major substantive,” DEP will have to go through an extensive rulemaking process, which includes a public hearing and months of information gathering.

The changes will have to go before the Board of Environmental Protection, a citizen group that oversees the DEP, and come back to lawmakers before they’re finalized.

If everything goes smoothly, the final rule could be in place by next fall, said Loyzim, although she noted there are “several ifs in there, and lots of caveats... this is a proposal where there’s a fair amount of uncertainty, and it could go quite a bit longer.” The creation of the Metallic Mineral Mining Act took five years to go through a similar process, although, as Loyzim pointed out, that was “a full reboot” of the rule. The changes to the mining act were prompted by news, broken by The Maine Monitor in 2021, of the discovery of a world-class deposit of spodumene, a crystal that contains the metal lithium, highly sought-after for batteries, touch screens and other devices. The mineral was found deep in the woods of the western Maine town of Newry by Mary and Gary Freeman, experienced “rock hounds” who have spent decades looking for tourmaline, beryl and other gemstones in an area that is internationally famous for such deposits. The rulemaking process will be underway as there is increasing interest in the state’s mineral resources, and increasing pushback against the companies that want to dig them out of the ground. Just this week, residents in the mid-coast town of Union voted overwhelmingly in favor of pausing any metal mining or exploration to give local officials time to review regulations. The vote came after Canada-based Exiro Minerals expressed interest in looking for metals near Crawford Pond in Warren, whose residents also enacted a moratorium on mining this spring. A similar moratorium has been proposed in the nearby town of Hope. The Washington County town of Pembroke, which was also the subject of interest by a Canadian mining company, banned industrial metal mining altogether last year. Maine has not had an active metal mine for decades. No company has even applied for a permit to mine metals under the new law, which passed in 2017. Lawmakers shared the concerns of their constituents regarding metal mining. “It’s just keeping me awake, fiddling





## Gold Prospectors of the Rockies Page 9

with this law that took so long,” said Rep. Vicki Doudera. “What are the unintended consequences for our state?” Commissioner Loyzim assured lawmakers that the rule changes would protect the environment, and that entities would only be exempt from the mining act if they could prove, through extensive testing, that the waste they would generate would be inert. It’s likely that the spodumene deposit in Newry would qualify for the exemption, said Loyzim. The Freemans would still have to prove it, however, and would still be regulated — just under the state’s quarrying rules, which are much less strict. The Freemans have already spent five years in discussions with the DEP, said Mary, and have already — with permission from state officials — removed roughly 700 tons of spodumene from the site. They have also done water quality testing and have core samples available. “The water quality is very good,” said Freeman, noting that there is a brook in the area known as Spodumene Brook, named by a state geologist who saw the crystals at the bottom. “We have a lot of exposure of this material to water.” Lawmakers were not receptive, however, to the Freemans’ request for a pilot project that would allow them to mine the deposit sooner, saying they wanted to proceed slowly. The debate over what to do about spodumene also raised a host of questions about quarrying, an industry with a long history in Maine. While metals can’t be mined in open pits larger than 3 acres, the state has no limit on the size of open pits for quarries, which concerned some lawmakers. Others, worried about habitat fragmentation, wanted to know if there was a way to prevent the “swiss cheese effect,” as Loyzim called it, of multiple pits spread across rather than a single large pit. Preventing that “would be complicated,” said the Commissioner. Quarries are also hardly the only threat to habitat, pointed out Natural Resources Council of Maine staff scientist Nick Bennett, and often revegetate quite nicely, pointing to the long Maine tradition of swimming in old granite quarries.

“We have allowed all sorts of uses that have impacts on habitat and species — we allow roads. We have a lot more acreage of roads, I would guess, than we have of these new types of quarries.” Lawmakers also advocated for ensuring the state benefits financially from the new metal quarries, either through permitting fees or excise taxes or both. A quarry application costs \$250; initial processing fees for a mining permit are \$500,000, plus at least \$20,000 each year for a permit.

“This is a different animal,” said Rep. Doudera. “Our start should be benefiting a little from it.”

Commissioner Loyzim said that DEP staff were committed to making “really careful fixes” to the law. “I don’t want to do this again.”




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**Coming Announcements and Special Events for Sept 2023**

**(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921**  
**(<https://www.wmmi.org/>) (Free to GPR Member with badge)**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 <b>Labor Day</b>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 <b>GPR Club Meeting</b>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 <b>Pirate' Hunt</b>	28	29	30