



Upcoming Events

August 23 Steering Committee Meeting at Dave and Linda Rulison's home. Call 334-2553 with questions.

November FOLK Annual Meeting. Date and location to be announced. Please plan to attend if possible.

September 10-18 Highway cleanup. Contact Rosemary Grier for details: 334-2660

January 1 Membership renewal. Our main source of income comes from membership dues, which allows us to send out this newsletter, among other things. Please pass your newsletter along to a friend when you are finished with it.

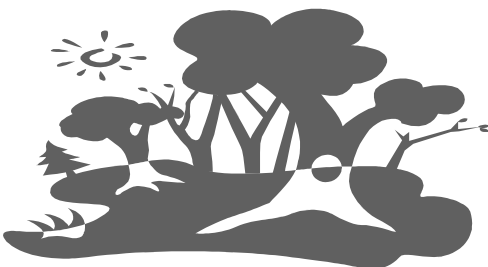
Activities Update

July 12 FOLK highway cleanup on US 41. Following the cleanup, the steering committee met at the roadside park near our stretch of highway.

Controlling Brush Growth Under Power Lines with Chemicals

The Daily Mining Gazette recently reported that a subcontractor of the Upper Peninsula Power Company has begun spraying chemicals to control shrub and tree growth along the power line right-of-ways. A later letter to the editor detailed these chemicals as Garlon 4 and Garlon 3A. Experts have indicated these chemicals are toxic, and may cause cancer and birth defects in animals.

As a concerned citizen, you have the right to question this practice, and in some cases halt it on your property. The phone numbers to call are (360-3287, 370-5949, 485-2422.) It only takes a few minutes to call, and you might learn something interesting to boot.



Sulfide Mining – A Primer

Editor's note: The information for this article was gathered from brochures, public meetings, and web pages. There is a lot of confusion about this issue, and I've done my best to make sense of it. My apologies for any inadvertent errors.

Kennecott Mining Company is proposing to develop a metallic sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog Plains of the Upper Peninsula near Big Bay. The exploration phase of this project has determined that an economically viable ore body of approximately 50 million tons lies below the Salmon Trout River. Kennecott has purchased land surrounding the site, has negotiated the necessary mineral rights at the site, and is proceeding with the permit process. Plans for this operation are still being developed, but some details are beginning to emerge. The current plan calls for a large tunnel to be bored starting on State property east of the site, and angling down into the ore body. This tunnel will accommodate massive trucks that will haul the ore to the surface. The sulfide-containing material from the tunnel boring will be stored in a lined pit for eventual disposal in the spent mine. Once the ore is hauled to the surface, the current plan is to transport it by various methods to a processing facility near Sudbury, Ontario, where the nickel, copper, and other metals will be extracted. As the ore is being withdrawn from underground, fill will be trucked down to replace the materials removed. After completed extraction, the material from the access road boring will be moved back into the earth, the project will be sealed, and environmental monitoring will begin.

Residents in the Copper Country and the Iron Counties have a long history of experience with mines, and the prosperity they can bring to a community. Hard rock mining is a very different process than the sulfide mining being proposed on the Yellow Dog Plains. Crushed tailings, or waste from copper and iron mining are relatively non-toxic, and can often be reclaimed by covering with a layer of earth and seeding. Sulfide ores contain, by definition, sulfur, which when combined with air and water can produce acid byproducts called Acid Mine Drainage (AMD.) Horror stories abound of older sulfide mining operations where collapsed berms, leakages, and other such catastrophes have permanently damaged ecosystems downstream from these mines. Several of these disasters occurred in areas much more arid than the mine proposed in our backyard. The Salmon Trout River, which runs through this site, is a pristine river which is home to (Continued on back page)



FOLK

FOLK, formed in 1989, was established to oppose the siting of any paper/pulp mill in Keweenaw Bay. FOLK continues to promote a healthy environment in the Keweenaw Peninsula and the Lake Superior Watershed. By joining FOLK, you support this goal.

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

- ☐ Individual (Annual Membership) - \$10 \$ _____
- ☐ Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual) - \$5 \$ _____
- ☐ Organization (Annual) - \$35 \$ _____
- ☐ **Check here if you want an acknowledgement**
- ☐ I would like to contribute to FOLK's Educational Fund. \$ _____
- ☐ Additional Contributions: \$ _____

Total enclosed:

\$ _____

Sulfide Mining (continued)

the endangered Coaster Brook Trout. A look at a topographic map of the area indicates that accidents from this operation could easily run into the Salmon Trout. And the Salmon Trout, of course, empties into Lake Superior.

The FOLK Steering Committee has met and discussed the proposed mine on several occasions. As usual, the discussions were lively and thorough. Guided by skepticism that such mining has ever been free of environmental harm, the steering committee adopted the following resolution regarding sulfide mining: **"FOLK opposes sulfide mining in the Yellow Dog Plains and will continue to do so until a sulfide mine has been proven to operate in a safe, nonpolluting manner."**

What can you do? If what you already know convinces you that sulfide mining in general, and sulfide mining on the Yellow Dog Plains in particular has environmental risks that outweigh any economic benefits, write to Michigan's Governor Jennifer Granholm. Activist organizations such as FOLK can raise a ruckus, but the surest way to sway our democratic governor is with lots of sincere, clearly written letters. Encourage your like-minded friends and family to write also. Every letter makes a difference. The address is:

Governor Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone 517 335-7858
Fax 517 335-6863

If you would like to educate yourself further, there are several great resources on the Internet, some in favor, some against.

<http://www.savethewildup.com> <http://www.ydeaglescry.com>
<http://www.northwoodswild.org> <http://www.yellowdogwatershed.org>
<http://www.kennecottminerals.com/>

In addition, public forums are held regularly on this issue. Attending as many of these as possible is a good way to become educated, since the presenters are often very knowledgeable and willing to field questions.

Perhaps as you decide whether to act, you could spread out a map of the area showing the Yellow Dog Plains, adjacent to one of the most magnificent environmentally pristine areas in the United States, and ask yourself what are the acceptable risks versus the economic benefits. If you agree with the FOLK Steering Committee, then take a minute to write a letter.

Steering Committee member Milt Salo brought a newspaper clipping with the following text to a recent meeting:

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing. Albert Einstein

The Clayton Jackson McGhie memorial in downtown Duluth was dedicated in 2003 to commemorate three African-American men who were lynched by a mob near that site in 1920. The bronze statue is surrounded by quotes such as this one.

Proper CFC Disposal

Appliances that use refrigerants, like refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers, can contain Chlorinated Fluorocarbons (CFCs) which have been linked to the deterioration of the ozone layer, which protects our planet from dangerous ultra-violet rays. Proper disposal of these appliances is crucial for the health of our planet.

If you have an obsolete appliance to get rid of, it will require a tag from a licensed technician which guarantees the CFCs have been properly removed. You have several options to get this tag, but most of them are not cheap. Calls to local licensed technicians indicated the cheapest local price was \$60, and that is if the appliance is delivered to them. If you can keep the item around for a while, some municipalities have "spring cleanups" where they will haul these things away for a reduced fee or free. You might also call your local Department of Community Health for advice. Make sure you aren't tempted to just dump the appliance in some out of the way place, because the CFCs will just slowly leak into the atmosphere, and no one wants that.

Friends of the Land of Keweenaw
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