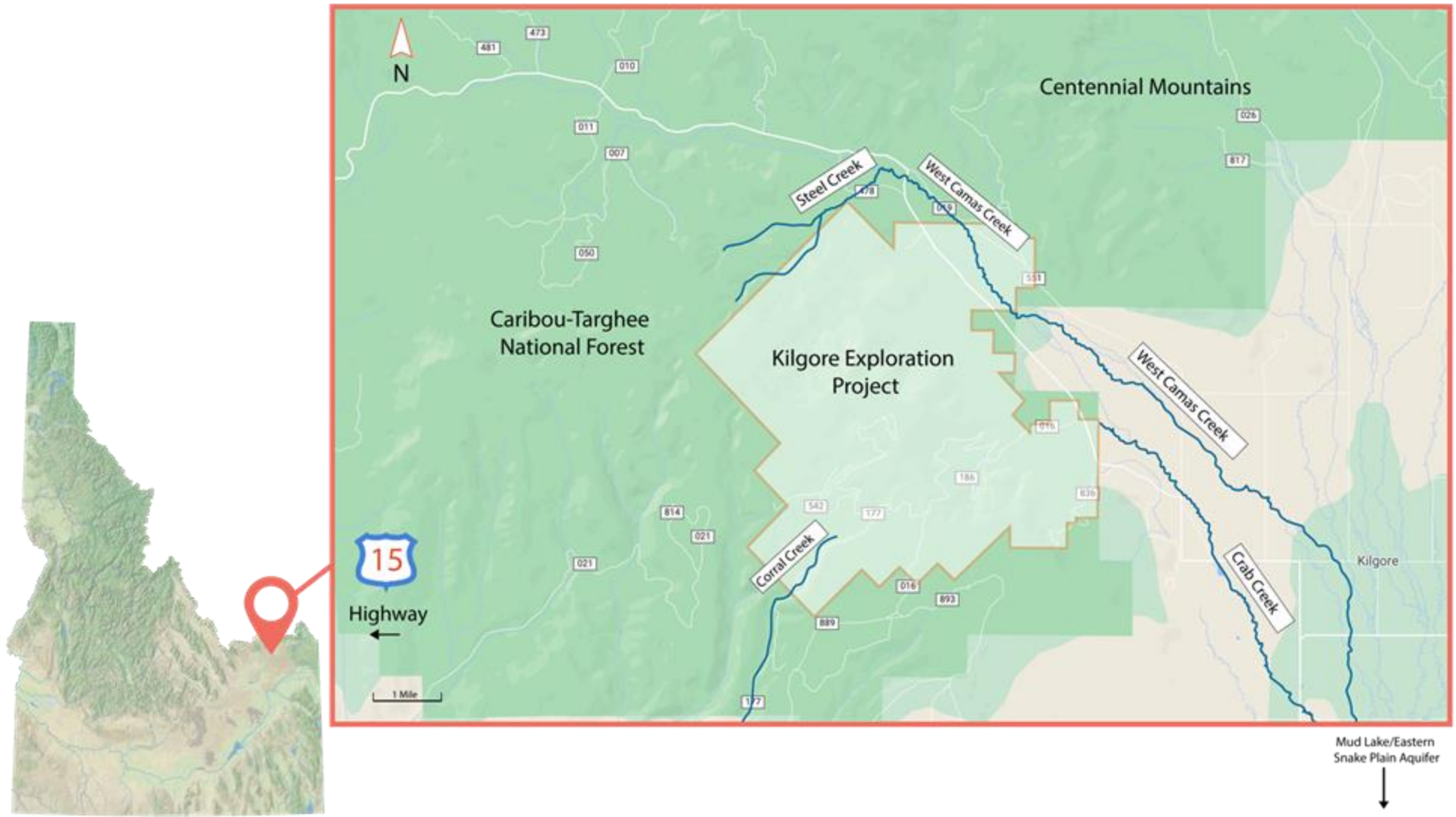
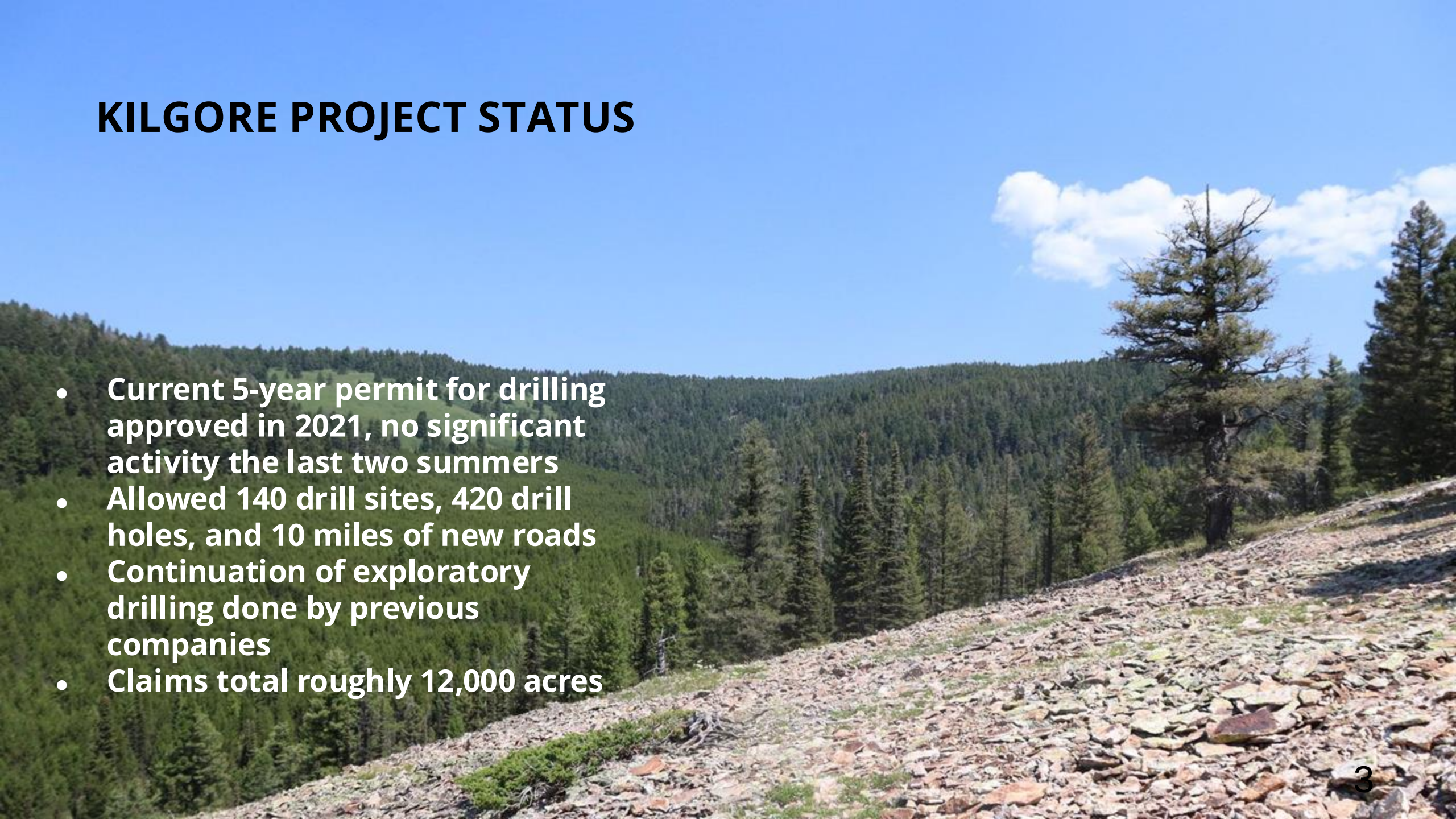
THE CLEAN KILGORE COALITION + PROTECTING IDAHO'S WATER RESOURCES

CLEAN KILGORE COALITION

Tony Huegel photo


N
Centennial Mountains
Steel Creek
West Camas Creek
Caribou-Targhee
National Forest
Kilgore Exploration
Project
West Camas Creek
Corral Creek
Crab Creek
Kilgore
15
Highway
1 Mile
Mud Lake/Eastern
Snake Plain Aquifer

KILGORE PROJECT STATUS



- Current 5-year permit for drilling approved in 2021, no significant activity the last two summers
- Allowed 140 drill sites, 420 drill holes, and 10 miles of new roads
- Continuation of exploratory drilling done by previous companies
- Claims total roughly 12,000 acres

KILGORE PROJECT STEPS

1. Exploratory Drilling
2. Proof of “Valuable Mineral Asset”
3. Submission of Mine Plan
4. Approval of Mine Plan and Permits
5. Mining Operations

MINE PERMITTING: THE NEPA PROCESS

National Environmental Policy Act (1969): Requires the responsible federal agency to assess and describe significant environmental impacts associated with major federal action

- Must undergo this process before a decision can be made on whether or not to approve a project
- Better informed decisions and citizen involvement

* It is not required under NEPA that a decisionmaker select the environmentally preferable alternative or prohibit adverse environmental effects

THE 1872 MINING LAW

- **No Royalty Requirement:** Mining companies are not required to pay royalties to taxpayers
- **Environmental Impacts:** Does not include modern environmental safeguards
- **Taxpayer Liability:** Cleanup costs fall on taxpayers
- **Outdated Priorities:** Mining > other public land uses

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A growing number of Idaho hunters, anglers, farmers, ranchers, outdoor recreationists, families, and conservationists have come together through the Clean Kilgore Coalition to protect the precious water, land, and outdoor heritage that is being threatened by the potential for a toxic gold mine in Kilgore one day.

WHAT MAKES KILGORE SPECIAL, AND WHAT IS AT RISK?

CLEAN KILGORE COALITION

VALUES AT RISK - WILDLIFE & WORKING LANDS

VALUES AT RISK - RECREATION

VALUES AT RISK - RURAL CHARACTER

VALUES AT RISK - CLEAN WATER

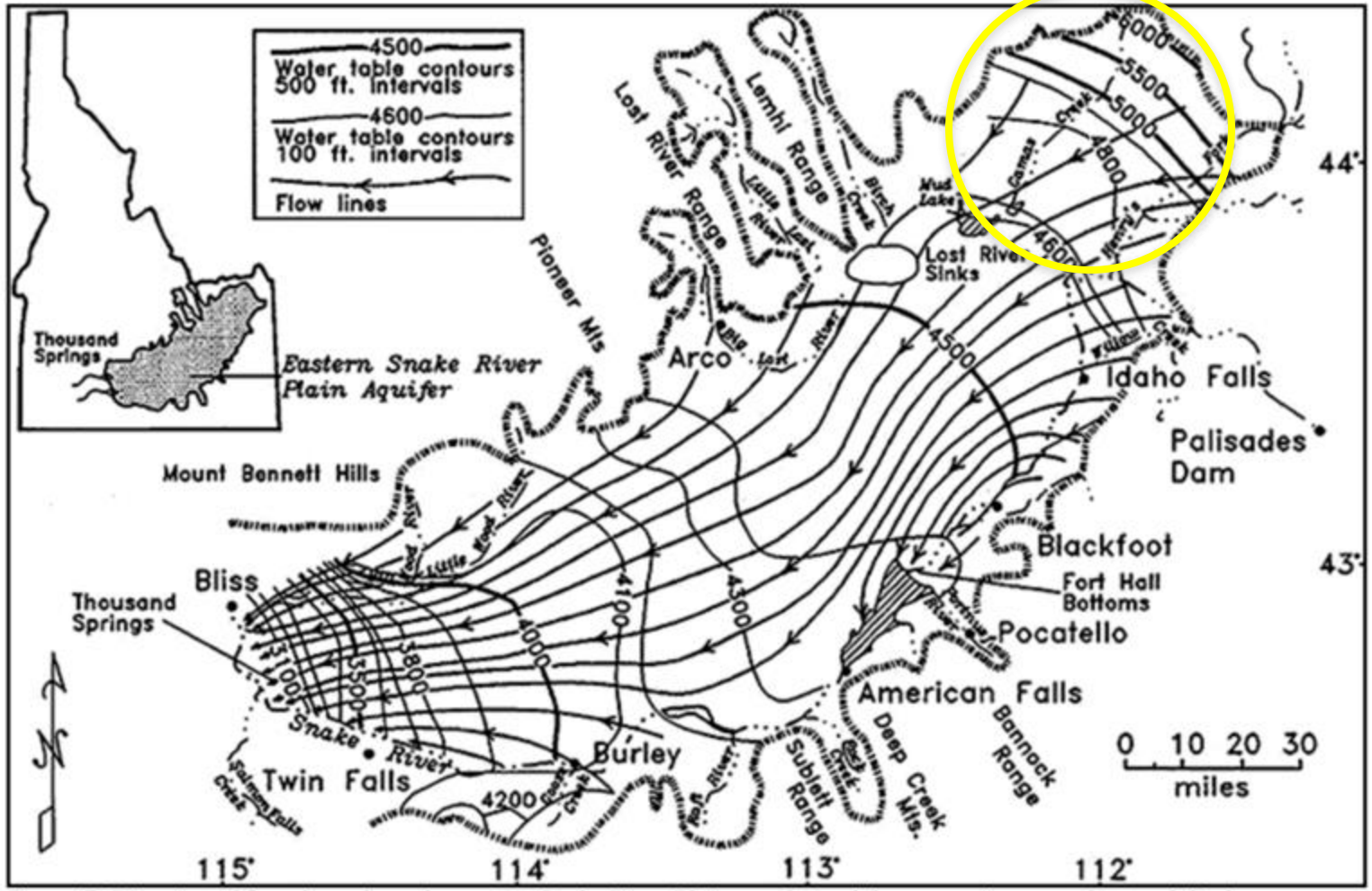
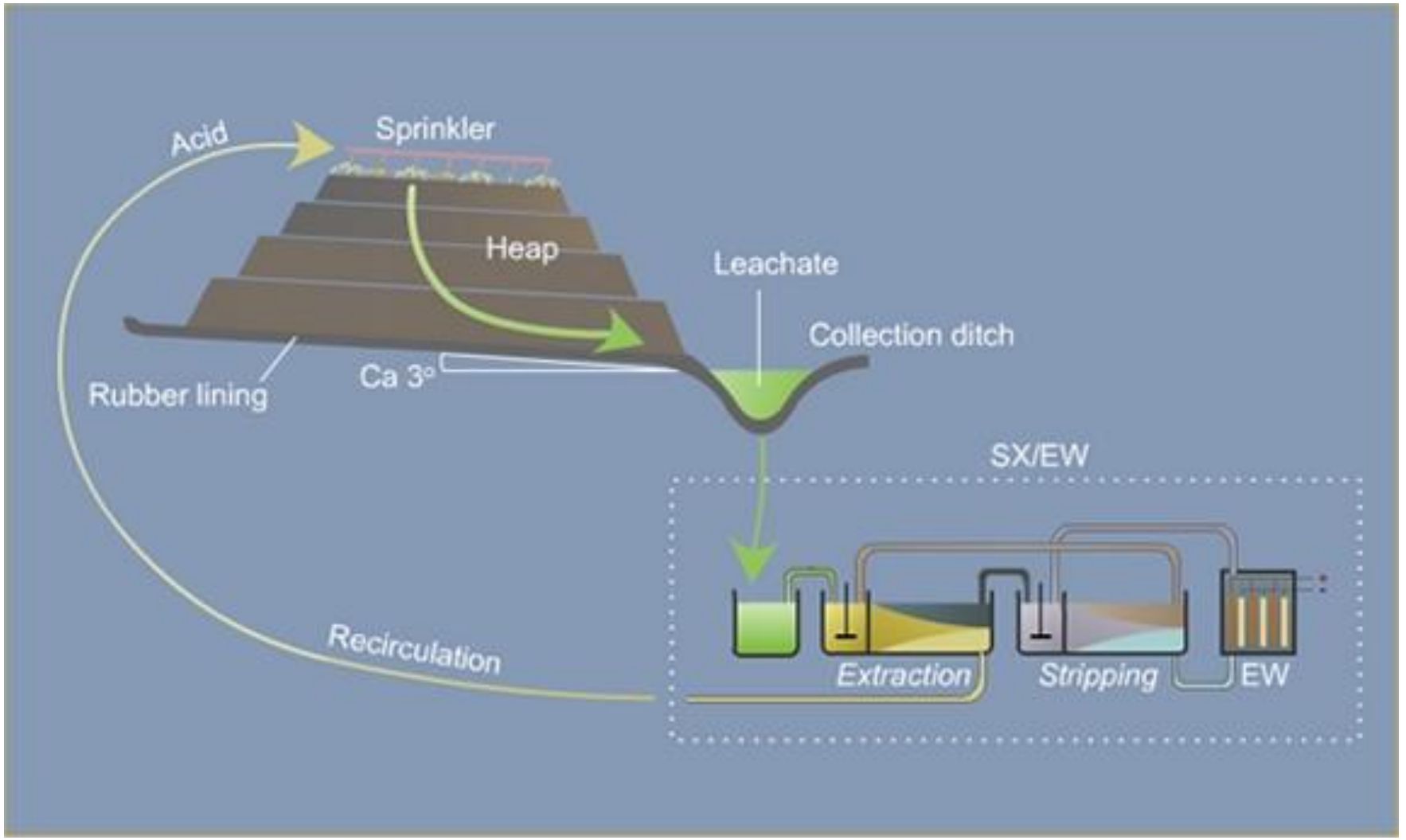


Figure 7. Direction of flow throughout the eastern Snake River Plain aquifer and the two main areas of natural discharge at Thousand Springs and near American Falls. From Link and Phoenix , 1996.

THREATS TO GROUNDWATER FROM GOLD MINING

CLEAN KILGORE COALITION

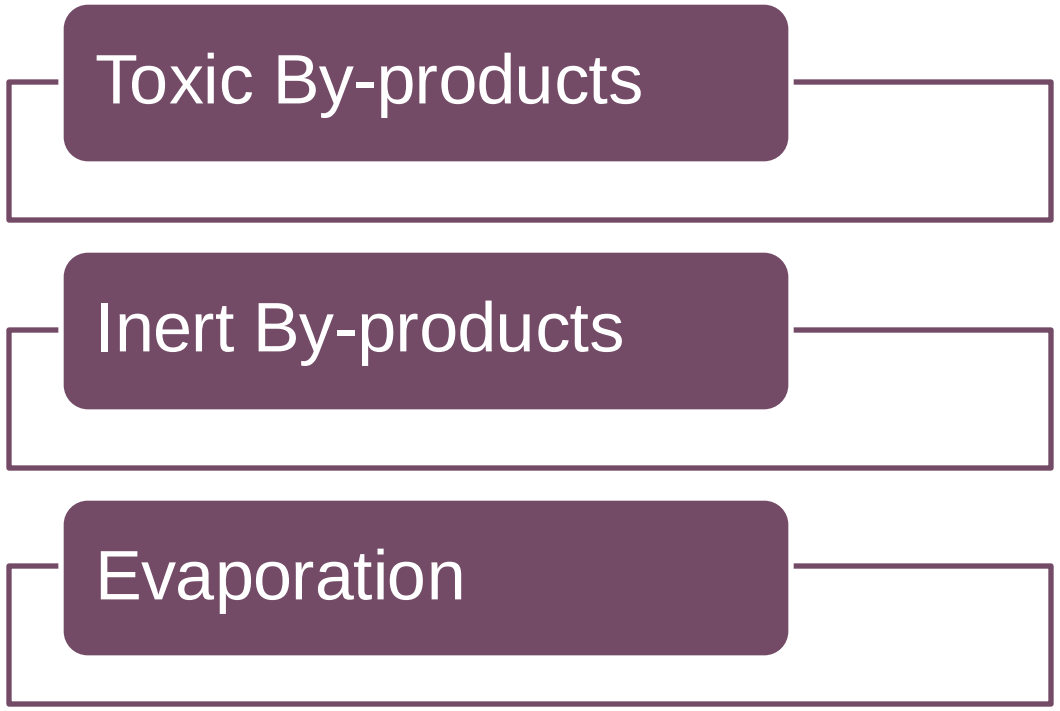
CYANIDE HEAP-LEACH PROCESSING



WHY CYANIDE?

"The primary advantage of cyanide was and is that, as a result of technical advances in mineral leaching techniques, mine operators were finally able to efficiently and profitably re-move gold and other precious metals from extremely low-grade ore deposits." – Jan Laitos, *Cyanide, Mining, and the Environment*

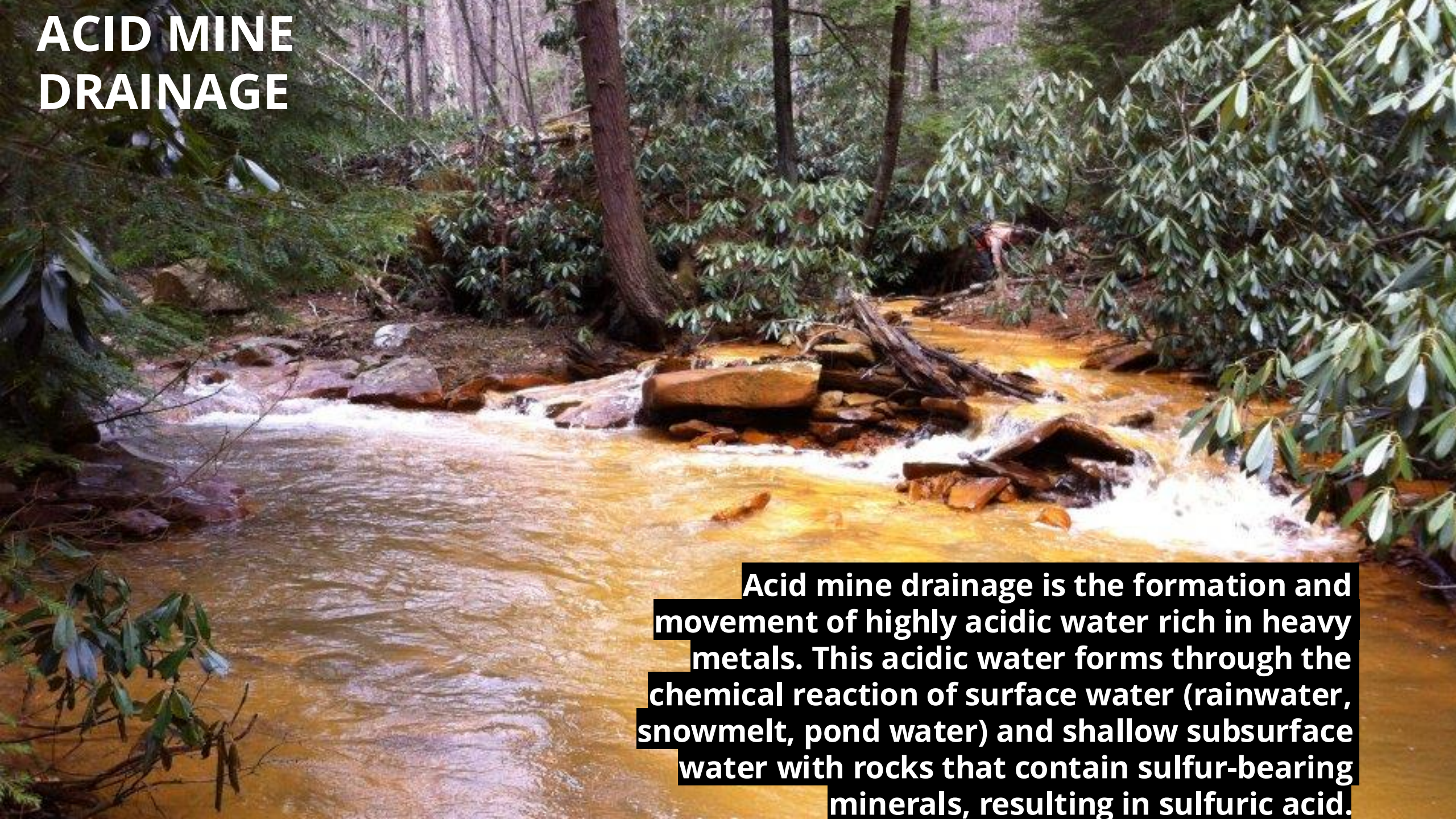
CYANIDE INTERACTIONS WITH WATER



In groundwater, it is much the same as in surface water … however … the lack of evaporation and microbial activity can change and slow chemical reactions.

Chemicals created by the transformation may include but are not limited to **free cyanides, metal-cyanide complexes, organic-cyanide compounds, cyanogen chloride, cyanates, thiocyanates, chloramines, and ammonia.**

ACID MINE DRAINAGE



Acid mine drainage is the formation and movement of highly acidic water rich in heavy metals. This acidic water forms through the chemical reaction of surface water (rainwater, snowmelt, pond water) and shallow subsurface water with rocks that contain sulfur-bearing minerals, resulting in sulfuric acid.

The environmental impact of mine drainage resulting from mining waste has been reported to occur not only from abandoned mines but also from operating mines. – Tomiyama and Igarashi (The potential threat of mine drainage to groundwater resources, 2022)

CASE STUDY: ZORTMAN-LANDUSKY MINES, MT

- 50,000 gallons of cyanide solution leached into the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation aquifer
- Continued acid mine drainage into Swift Gulch
- Multiple water treatment plants installed to run in perpetuity
- Roughly $30 million paid by taxpayers
- Water quality problems were so pervasive, it led to a cyanide in mining ban statewide

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR EASTERN IDAHO?

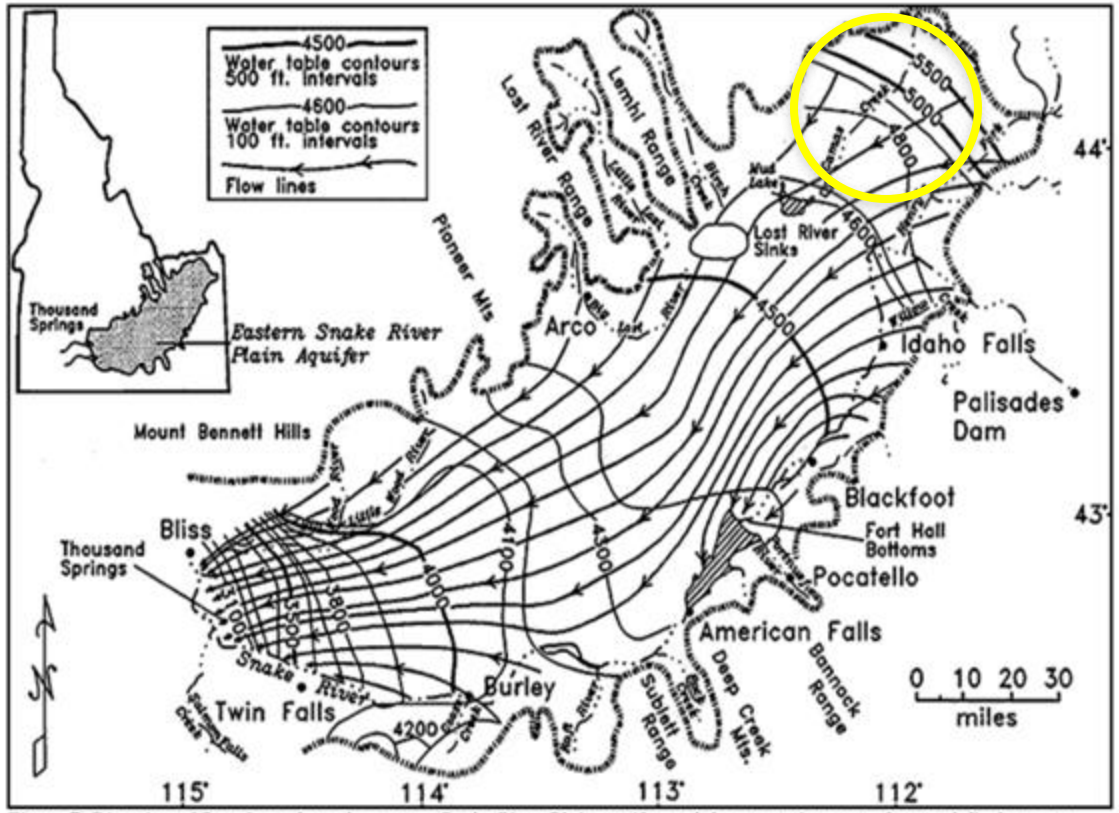


Figure 7. Direction of flow throughout the eastern Snake River Plain aquifer and the two main areas of natural discharge at Thousand Springs and near American Falls. From Link and Phoenix , 1996.

- Agricultural Water Use Problems
- Surface Water Contamination
- Aquifer Contamination
- Fish and Wildlife Impacts
- Clark County, Idaho's poorest, forced to foot bill for infrastructure, cleanup

CLEAN KILGORE COALITION

Project Status Kilgore Project Stories Events

TAKE ACTION

Protect Idaho's Wildlife, Water, and Way of Life

https://www.protectkilgore.org/