



# Protect Clean Water and Taxpayers from Mining Pollution

Ensure Maine people do not end up paying to clean up mining disasters

**Maine's clean water is one of our most valuable assets. Clean rivers, lakes, coastal waters, and groundwater support our health, our outdoor way of life, and our fishing, guiding, and recreation jobs.**

## Metal mining poses serious risks to Maine

- Mining is a major threat to Maine's rivers, lakes, coastal waters, and groundwater.
- Mining for metals in sulfide deposits, where copper, silver and gold may be found, creates sulfuric acid and toxic runoff. This "acid mine drainage" pollution can devastate water quality and kill aquatic life.
- Mining companies are notorious for shutting down on short notice and leaving cleanup costs to taxpayers.
- The Callahan mine in Hancock County, which closed more than 40 years ago, continues to contaminate surrounding water and aquatic life with heavy metals.
- Maine citizens are still paying nearly \$1 million per year to clean up the Callahan mine, and the biggest part of the cleanup there hasn't even started.



## Maine needs strong laws and rules to prevent mining from wrecking our environment



Swift Gulch, 2004. Dean Stiffarm Photo.

- Maine's rivers, streams, and ponds support the best brook trout fishing in the United States.
- Mining advocates claim that "great new technologies" will protect Maine's water quality, but there are no "great new technologies". Mining is still very dangerous for people and the environment, just as it has always been.
- Maine needs very protective mining laws and rules that will keep our environment clean and protect taxpayers
- Maine people's water quality should not be sacrificed, and taxpayers should not be left footing the bill for clean-up costs.

## An Act to Protect Maine's Clean Water and Taxpayers from Mining Pollution would,

- ban mining in, on, or under floodplains, public lands, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters,
- require mining companies to pay enough money up front to cover major environmental disasters so taxpayers don't have to, and
- limit groundwater pollution. Current law allows unlimited groundwater pollution.

## Protect Maine's water from mining pollution

**Support An Act to Protect Maine's Clean Water and Taxpayers from Mining Pollution**

*For more information, please contact Nick Bennett, 207-430-0116 or [nbennett@nrcm.org](mailto:nbennett@nrcm.org)*



## **Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition**

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

***We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive***

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	Midcoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	