



**IDAHO FISH & GAME**

PANHANDLE REGION  
2750 Kathleen Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Dirk Kempthorne/Governor  
Steven Huffaker/Director

February 26, 2002

Mr. Robert Haynes  
Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Northern Region  
1910 Northwest Blvd, S 210  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

**RECEIVED**  
**FEB 28 2002**  
**IDWR/North**

Dear Mr. Haynes:

REFERENCE: #94-7389 – GOLD CREEK MINES, INC.

IDFG protests the above-named application by Gold Creek Mines to withdraw 15 cfs from Gold Creek (Shoshone County) for power generation.

Our protest is based on the potential, but unknown, impacts of the proposed hydropower project on fish and wildlife resources. The application is insufficient to for us to adequately evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

IDFG has does not currently have information regarding fisheries in the proposed bypass reach. However, because of the size, elevation and location of the creek, we believe that Gold Creek may support westslope cutthroat trout or other native fish. IDFG would like any water right permit to include conditions to ensure an adequate amount of bypass flow is maintained in Gold Creek to support fish and other aquatic and riparian resources.

In addition to our desire to ensure that adequate flows are maintained to support fish and other environmental values, we do not know, but suspect that the amount of water requested is not available in Gold Creek year round.

The applicant should be required to provide sufficient hydrologic and aquatic resource data to demonstrate that sufficient flows are available to satisfy both the requested appropriation and to maintain bypass flows needed to support and protect existing fisheries and other environmental functions before a permit is issued.

Sincerely,

Greg Tourtlotte  
Regional Supervisor

GIT:RH:kh

C: NRPB Boise; Greg Tourtlotte, IDFG Cd'A  
Mr. Mike Branstetter, Gold Creek Mines  
Mr. David Barber, Office of the Attorney General, State of Idaho

File: IDWR # 94-7389 gold creek mines hydro

**Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage**