



Omineca Mining Association (OMA)

To: BC Ministry of Mines.

In response to Bulletin 38 I would like to take the opportunity to offer my thoughts. Limiting hole depth to 1.2 M is simply unworkable and unnecessary. If the goal is to eliminate hobby hand mining, this is surely one way to do it. We are already self-limited via the use of hand tools and any further regulation regarding hole size and depth is far too onerous. In addition, prohibiting hand work within the riparian zone eliminates the possibility of working on far too many creeks and streams that do not have large gravel bars. Having a riparian setback for commercial mining is certainly understandable, but should be eliminated for those of us only using hand tools. Again, we work on such a small scale that our environmental impact is virtually nil.

I would like to bring forward a proposal to allow hand mining in a manner similar to Alberta. Alberta allows hand mining similar to BC except that it is allowed on almost all creeks and rivers without the need for a claim. Because hand mining has virtually no environmental impact, this would allow hobbyists throughout the province to enjoy a wonderful healthy family past time in our great outdoors. Opening the entire province to recreational hand mining would also take pressure off the limited placer areas we currently have.

Yours Truly
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