

Montanore Talking points:

- Two scientific studies conducted by the mining company's own consultants show that the mine will de-water 26 miles of wilderness rivers and streams. Some will be impacted up to 1,300 years; some will never recover.
- The mine violates the nondegradation provision in Montana's Water Quality Act, which protects "outstanding resource waters," which include Cabinet Wilderness streams.
- The six impacted streams (East Fork Rock Creek, Rock Creek, East Fork Bull River, Ramsey Creek, Libby Creek, and Poorman Creek) are considered Critical Bull Trout Habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In fact, FWS considers East Fork Bull River as "the single most important bull trout spawning and rearing stream in the Lower Clark Fork bull trout core area."
- Bull trout are a threatened species protected by the Endangered Species Act and face many obstacles to survival. 80% of bull trout spawning beds in the East Fork Bull River occur in areas where base flows would be 97% dewatered by the mine. Combined with other stressors, severe dewatering could wipe out all bull trout populations from this stream.
- The impacts of the Montanore Mine must be considered in conjunction with the proposed Rock Creek Mine, which will tunnel under the Cabinets from the west to access the same ore body and also cause severe de-watering. The combined impacts of Montanore and Rock Creek Mines could do irreparable damage to vital Cabinet Wilderness trout streams.
- Clean water, wilderness streams, and healthy native trout fisheries are essential to Montana's economy and cannot be compromised. The days of mining at any cost are over. Approval of this mine is not only old thinking, it's also dangerous and unlawful.
- Wilderness just ain't wilderness when it's mined. In spite of tunnels, mitigation, and modern mining techniques, the reality is that the substantial, and in some cases permanent, impacts of the massive Montanore and Rock Creek Mines will alter the landscape to the point that it can no longer be considered wilderness. The mine is temporary – its impacts on our irreplaceable wilderness resources are not.