From: Gay Richardson [mailto:gayrichardson@idaho.net]
Sent: Monday, December 25, 2017 8:18 PM
To: Weaver, Mathew <Mathew.Weaver@idwr.idaho.gov>
Subject: mercury

Mathew,

I realize that data should have been in by the 19th Dec. but have only recently listened to the audio on those who gave comments past where I did as I had to leave soon as I was done due to using a neigbors phone for the conference call. Also both my computers went down and we had several power outages up here and the new computer may have gotten damaged by reverse high voltage surge but am in the process of finding out. I feel it is important to help clear up this long standing outlook/fairytale controversy on mercury as that guy who retired from the Forest Service and was hired by ICL is all mixed up on mercury in placers and the regulation you people are using from the Forest Service is also in error showing no understanding on what goes on with mercury in the rivers--- reason: no experience, just assumtive guess work of no value but it does needlessly put the screws to the dredgers. First off you most of the time will not know when you pick up mercury until you clean up your concentrates then you see it if there is any. another way is if you check you sluice box for gold and you hit some mercury and there is enough of it (not that often) you may see some in the matt if the dredge riffles are open to the matting, otherwise you won't see it unless there was a lot. If you are on open bedrock where the bedrock has been degraded by the river you might see some mercury on or in the bedrock. Random flakes of gold coated with mercury also show up sometimes but again you may not know of this untill you clean up the concentrates or happen to see it in the sluice when sample checking for evidence of gold. In the process of cutting down, streams are degrading and aggrading all the time. When they do any mercury above bedrock is taken to bedrock. Then the material from degradation may cover mercury in an agraded zone untill it gets degraded. What this means is the mercury is being exposed and covered again and again. The best thing to do is let the dredgers get as much of the mercury out of the streams as possible by recovering in their sluice boxes as much of the mercury as possible and properly dispose of it or keep it to recover gold when it becomes necessary to do so. Why leave the mercury in the streams to be banged around forever? And why hire some team to come in every time you see a little mercury and try to do the impossible? I used mercury to recover extremly fine gold stored till the end of a season and gold contaminated by mercury then used a retort to safely remove the mercury from the gold and stored the retort mercury for later use. I don't give anybody the right to tell me how to recover my gold. Mercury recovery has been used for many years by professionals and still is.There are chemical methods to remove mercury also when the coating is thin but still better to use a retort and then finish cleaning with chemicals.

I feel this is enought for now as I have written before about mercury, the incredible amount of mercury in peoples teeth, the fact that 40% mercury amalgams are still used by dentists, and the high tonnage belched out by volcanoes every year; but nobody wants to look at this. I am well aware of mercury, being around the health field for 50 years, but this is a whole different story.

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