

Thunder Mountain Mining District

Valley County, Idaho

A SUCCESS STORY OF A MINE THAT WAS NOT MINED

ADVANCING ABANDONED MINE LAND CLEANUP
WITH OR WITHOUT GOOD SAMARITAN LEGISLATION

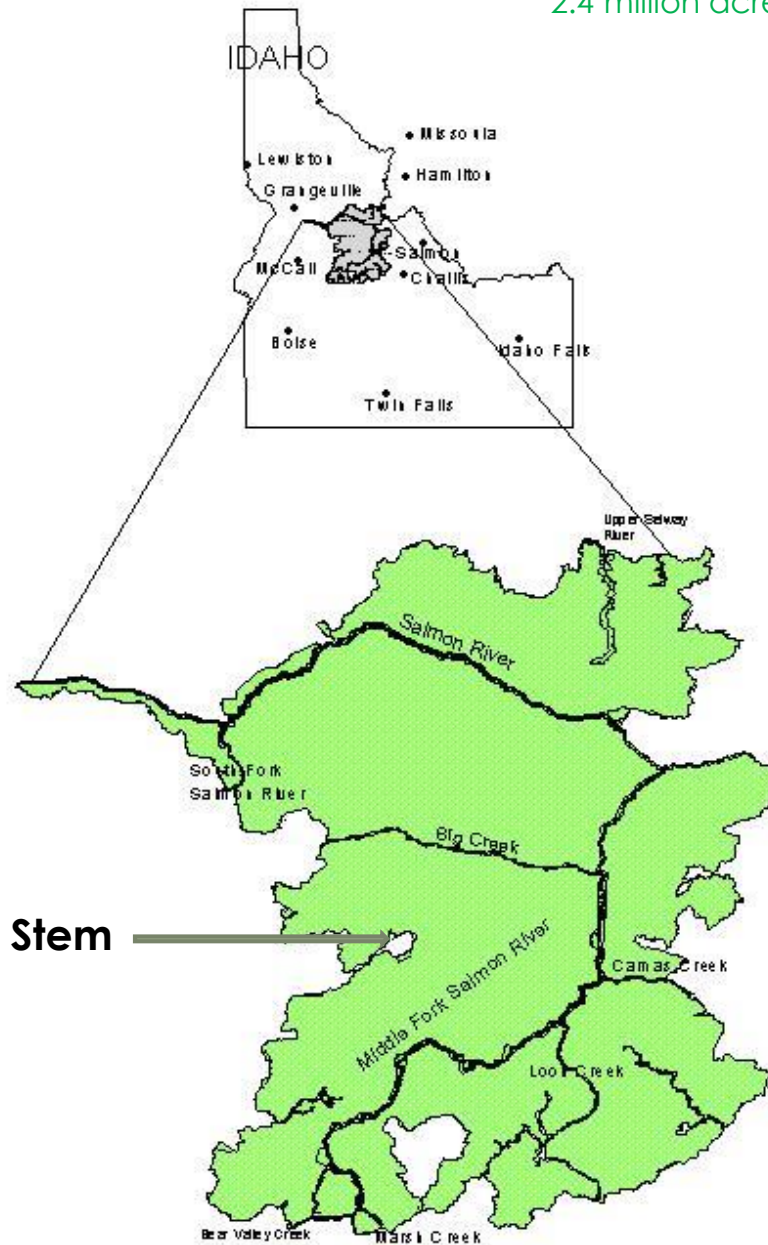
APRIL 9, 2019

THUNDER MOUNTAIN GOLD, INC

JIM COLLORD, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Located in the
Headwaters of the
Salmon River

Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness
2.4 million acres

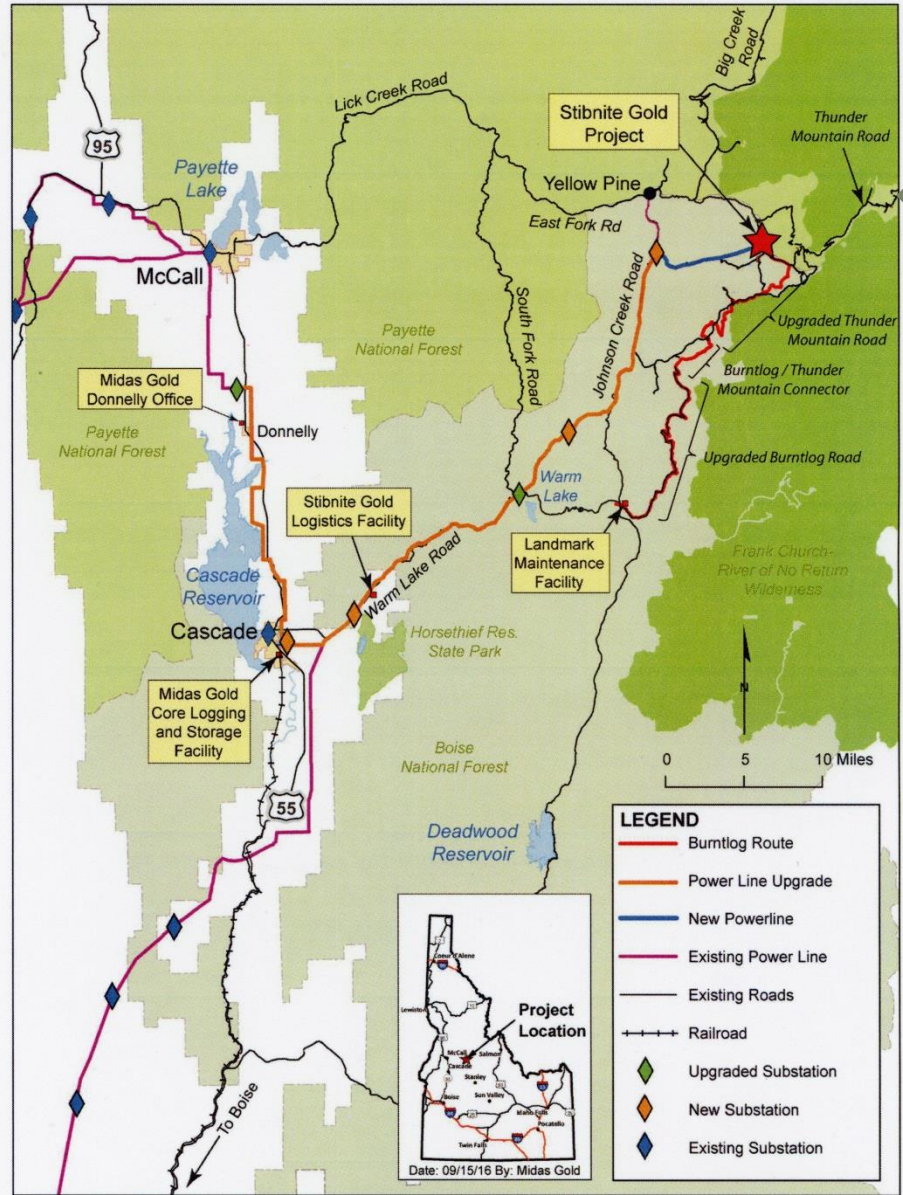


Thunder Mountain Cherry Stem



Figure 1.1 Vicinity Map

Figure ES-3, Site Access Map



Thunder Mountain

Google Earth View of District



Thunder Mountain History

- Major gold rush into area in 1900 – boasted a population of 2,000 or so
- Large slide from Dewey Reef Mine area blocked Monumental Creek
- Town of Roosevelt on Monumental was inundated and abandoned
- Renewed activity 1910 – minor production followed
- Large company exploration 1970s through the 1990s
- Coeur d' Alene Mines (CDA) permitted and operated Sunnyside 1986-1992
- After producing over 100,000 ounces, CDA reclaimed the site
- Exploration at the Dewey Mine defined a minable reserve in the 1990s



THE PROSPECTOR THUNDER MOUNTAIN NEWS

VOLUME I.

ROOSEVELT, IDAHO, NOVEMBER 5, 1904.

NUMBER 2.

FACTS ABOUT THE FIRST BOOM AND WHAT FOLLOWED

[By C. E. Eddy.]

Before proceeding to write of the developments of Thunder Mountain as they are progressing today we will frankly delineate its past. It is too great and wonderful a country to be injured at this time by telling the whole truth of its history. How thousands of tenderfeet rushed in and then rushed out in the great "hot-foot" stampede of two years ago. How hundreds tramped over hidden fortunes and condemned the country because gold was not lying about loose in chunks as certain romancers had led them to suppose. Our first boom and its consequences were little less than what has occurred in the beginning of every great mining camp.

for the great Thunder Mountain, which was meanwhile shrouded in the winter snows of 1901-2. At that time men who had even seen Thunder Mountain were objects of great interest, and those alleged to have claims in the great camp were looked upon with awe, they were never allowed to pay for the drinks, and no doubt could board indefinitely, if desired, without having to pay bills, for who would presume to speak of a few dollars in presence of a man owning claims in Thunder Mountain. Everybody wanted to be put "next" to a Thunder Mountain bonanza.

10,000 TENDERFEET.

them a few thousand for their surface holdings. They would not dig. They were soon discouraged and went hence sacrificing outfits, etc., until mules and pack saddles became a dreg on the market.

UNACQUAINTED WITH TUFU.

Thunder Mountain had been a craze, not so much among people of judgment and means who could derive benefit by developing the resources of a mining camp, but among a class seeking immediate betterment of their own conditions—an aggregation of crusaders somewhat akin to Coxie's army. They had little spare

from intrinsic values of the camp. It may have somewhat retarded development and incoming capital but the companies here kept on. The real miners and men of staying qualities continued to make valuable discoveries and additions to the district. Today despite all adverse opinions the Thunder Mountain country is paramount among all new gold camps and with unshaken confidence can challenge the most competent investigation of the mining world.

A STRANGE GOLD FIELD.

This camp cannot be judged by standards which apply elsewhere. No two great camps are alike.

lies the surface for miles and altogether contains enough gold values to build the navies of Europe.

THE PROSPECTOR'S LUCK.

What we have depicted, the first discovery, the boom, the excitement, the stampede and the reaction, applies not only to Thunder Mountain. In more or less degree it applies to every mining camp yet discovered. It seems after all a quite necessary, at least a quite natural part of the propaganda of mining progress. "Many are called but few are chosen" applies here as elsewhere. The writer has experienced all the and downs of a prospector's

has dug holes and
together and profe
The results are \$1,000,000 worth
of gold discoveries in the State of

L. A. Wayland

THE PROSPECTOR AND THUNDER MOUNTAIN NEWS

VOLUME I.

ROOSEVELT, IDAHO, APRIL 1, 1905.

NUMBER 16.

SUNNYSIDE CRUSHER ARRIVES WITH 62 HORSES AND 21 MEN

William Kreps, the Dauntless Freighter, Crosses Four Mountain Ranges With 20,000 Pounds of Mining Machinery.



THE DEWEY PALACE HOTEL (HOME OF THUNDER MOUNTAIN MILLIONAIRES) NAMPA, IDAHO

By courtesy of Mrs. Mansfield of Idaho Leader

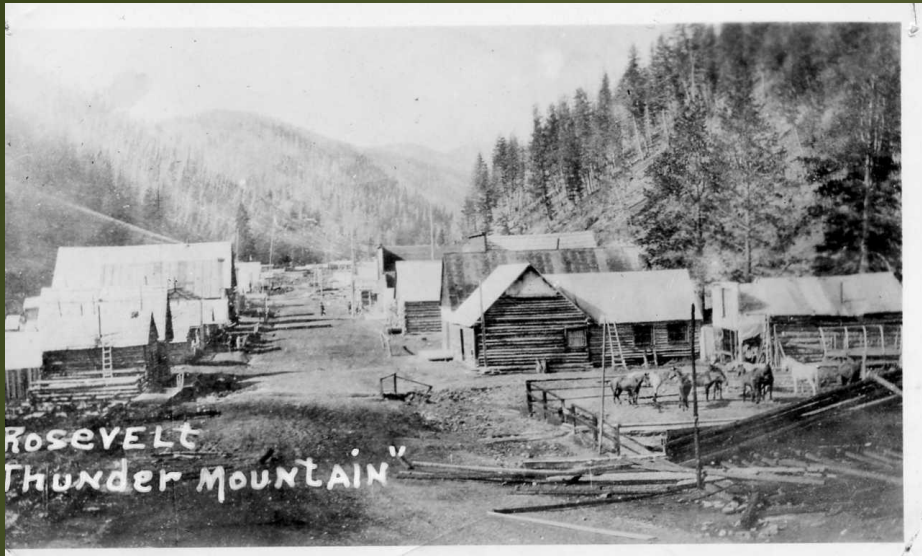
J. J. BURK

William Kreps is just arriving mud which seemed to have no plumb line... machinery bottom. After the crusher... weighing fully 20,000 lbs. The ed, not even a saddle horse could... At Big Creek Summit, 12 miles... This work was of great service. Mrs. Morris went to Bellevue... Mr. Kreps himself, with two... Mr. Kreps arrived Thursday afternoon, charge of the Sunnyside boarding... leaving the crusher to follow from house.

APRIL 1, 1905
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Mule Creek Slide – 1909
Blocked Monumental Creek





Town of Roosevelt on
Monumental Creek

Roosevelt after the
1909 Mule Creek
Slide



Historic Sunnyside Mine Area





Sunnyside Mine and Camp
1935





Dewey gravity mill (1984)

Dewey Reef Pit area



Looking north toward reclaimed Sunnyside Mine and leach pad



Looking South at Sunnyside Mine Area





Lightning Peak Pit – Mined 1991-1992 by Coeur d' Alene Mines

Reclaimed Lightning Peak Haulroad



Thunder Mountain Story



- **Thunder Mountain Gold and Dewey Mining formed a JV in late 1990s**
- **Commenced negotiations with Trust for Public Lands (TPL) and the US Forest Service in 2001 for a buyout**
- **TPL took the lead on the project while the USFS conducted an appraisal**
- **The appraisal was completed in 2004 based on minable reserves, timber and real estate value**
- **The appraisal came in at \$13,000,000 – based on \$400 gold**
- **(Gold price at the time was about \$260)**

The Buyout

- Appraisal of \$13,000,000; final sale price was \$5,500,000
- Proceeds split between Dewey Mining and Thunder Mountain
- Balance of \$7,500,000 was given as a donative tax credit
- USFS obligated to complete all existing reclamation, estimated at time of sale to be \$750,000 (mainly Dewey mill)
- Land transfer from TPL to USFS completed in 2008 using Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Road along cherry stem to remain open for public access
- Trust for Public Lands to place a plaque at the wilderness boundary recognizing the history of Thunder Mountain

Plaque dedication to pioneers of Thunder Mountain in 2016



Dedicated to Pioneers of Thunder Mountain

First were the American Indians that inhabited these mountains for generations. Then came the prospectors who discovered gold at Thunder Mountain in the 1860s. In the 1890s, the three Caswell brothers, Ben, Luman, and Dan, developed a profitable prospect that was sold to W.H. Dewey of Silver City. Dewey raised money and developed the claims. By 1902 a large population of fortune seekers had built the town of Roosevelt, which boasted a population of a thousand or more, with a post office and a variety of stores and services.

The Roosevelt town site was flooded in 1909 when a mudslide dammed Monumental Creek and formed Roosevelt Lake – remnants of the town's buildings can still be seen below the water. Although the flood ended the gold rush boom, exploration and mining continued in the district until the early 21st century. Most notable were the Dewey Reef Mine and the Sunnyside Mine, the latter mined by Dan McRae and family in the 1920s and 1930s.

Large-scale modern mining in the district was done at the Dewey Mine in the 1970s and 1980s by Dewey Mining Company, and on the Sunnyside Mine by Coeur d' Alene Mines and Thunder Mountain Gold in the 1980s and 1990s. It is estimated the District has produced over 300,000 ounces of gold.

The private land and mining claims were sold to The Trust for Public Land and the Forest Service in 2005, with the owners donating a significant amount of the value. The donation also preserved public access to the area forever.

“As along an old road one may find
A bit of memory where a cabin stood.
We may look back through crowded years
To quiet places where life was good.”

(From a poem by Marjorie McRae Collord,
who first saw Thunder Mountain in 1914 at the age of 2.)

This plaque placed here in 2013 by The Trust for Public Land, Thunder Mountain Gold and the Payette National Forest

