

Deland Hinkey

People of Red Mountain

Testimony

The Mining Law of 1872 is outdated and a continued path of Indigenous genocide. It steals sacred land from Indigenous people. This US law does not recognize Indigenous People's religious ways. The law rapes the land of our sacred medicines and foods, our ancestral burial sites, sacred waters, and religious ways. The Mining Law of 1872 is a law that should be changed to protect Indigenous people's rights. Bottom line; its 2021, not 1872.

The past Mercury Mine in McDermitt, Nevada still stands without reclamation. The mine is abandoned with hazardous materials and the mine once occupied is a heart ache to one's eye. The people of the McDermitt area are still paying for the aftereffects of this mine although it has been inactive for years. Today the water in the town of McDermitt has high levels of arsenic and is unrepairable. Water must be delivered to the people bi-weekly from 74 miles away. People are dying from cancer at an alarming rate. The damage from this mine is irreversible.

It is not too late for change. The Mining Law of 1872 needs to be changed to protect Indigenous people and the environment. We all need to stop taking things for granite and come to reality we only have one earth and it must be protected. Stop corporations whose objective is to reunion Mother Earth for profit. Make your carbon footprint smaller. Walk more, buy used and respect the land.