



INSPECTOR GENERAL CLEARS EPA IN GOLD KING MINE SPILL

Agency finds no misconduct in three-million-gallon spill.

The [Office of the Inspector General \(OIG\)](#) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded no wrongdoing was associated with an EPA-led team that triggered the Gold King Mine spill and sent three million gallons of toxic wastewater into the Animas River watershed in August 2015. The toxic plume stained its way from Southern Colorado through the Navajo Nation in New Mexico and into Utah where traces were deposited in Lake Powell. Since the agency had no rules in place for dealing with conditions encountered at the mine, the contractor employed by the agency was not required to conduct pressure testing. In addition, the EPA previously concluded it couldn't legally pay any of the \$1.2 billion in compensation sought by claimants. Prior to the spill, the Gold King Mine was leaking approximately 200 gallons of toxic wastewater per minute. This nonstop leak generated the same amount of toxic spillage as the Gold King Mine spill – three million gallons – every 10 days.



**BIA****WEST****LEGAL EAGLES TAKE SIDES IN WYOMING BOUNDARY DISPUTE.**

Established in 1868, Wyoming's Wind River Indian Reservation ranks as one of the largest reservations in the Lower 48 with more than 2.2 million acres. But a 1905 decision to cede portions of the reservation to settlers has emerged at the center of a contentious court battle involving the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes versus the State of Wyoming. The Eastern Shoshone have enlisted former Obama Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and former Clinton Solicitor General Seth Waxman, and the Northern Arapaho have retained the services of former Bush Solicitor General Paul Clement. According to the Eastern Shoshone's brief, Congress allowed the sale of some of the reservation lands, but it didn't express a clear intent to reduce the overall size of the Wind River reservation.

**PACIFIC****FINE****WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES****WHEAT FARMER ORDERED TO PAY**

\$2.8 MILLION. *USA Today* reports that a Northern California farmer received a multi-million-dollar fine for failing to apply for the necessary permit to plow and plant. "The case is the first time that we're aware of that says you need to get a [Army Corps of Engineers] permit to plow to grow crops," said Anthony Francois of the Pacific Legal Foundation. Francois added, "We're not going to produce much food under those kinds of regulations." At issue is 450 acres purchased by John Duarte in 2012. The farmer planned to grow wheat, but the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board claimed Duarte violated the Clean Water Act by not obtaining a permit to discharge dredged or fill material into seasonal wetlands considered waters of the United States. An August trial date is scheduled.. Read more [HERE](#).

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WEST

AUCTION

MONTANA RANCLAND

YELLOWSTONE PRESERVE GOES ON

THE BLOCK.

Concierge Auctions will auction the eight-ranch property, including infrastructure and a caretaker's residence, on

August 17. Located in Southwestern Montana in Big Sky, the 1,580-acre tract is bordered by the Gallatin River to the north and the Gallatin National Forest to the south and features dramatic views of the



Spanish Peaks, Pioneer Mountain, and Lone Mountain. In addition to its proximity to Big Sky Town Center, Moonlight Basin, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, and the Yellowstone Club, the Yellowstone Preserve is a short drive to Yellowstone National Park. Read more [HERE](#).

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LandReport VOICES

BY EDDIE LEE RIDER JR.

I recently had a chance to sit down with Potlatch's Bill DeReu, Vice President of Real Estate and Lake State Resources.

ELR: *Bill, I understand Potlatch was formed in Idaho in 1903 and established a beachhead in the South by acquiring land in Arkansas in the 1950s. How and where has the company grown since then?*

BD: Potlatch's land holdings have grown steadily over the years, as we gained a significant presence in Minnesota in the 1960s and then acquired land in Alabama and Mississippi in 2014. The company is now one of the largest private landowners in the US, known for quality timber and land management.

ELR: *Where does the name Potlatch come from?*

BD: The company chose the name Potlatch because of the Native American influence on the land in the Pacific Northwest, and it means "a gathering where gifts are exchanged."

ELR: *How many acres does the company currently own, and how much land does the company sell in an average year?*

BD: We currently own about 1.4 million acres, with 1.2 million acres in core timberland, and we have identified 200,000 acres of real estate that has values much greater than timberland. We sell about 20,000 acres of that real estate annually for conservation, recreation, and cabin sites.

ELR: *What do those retail land transactions look like in terms of land and size?*

BD: Potlatch offers something for everyone in our recreational real estate program, from five acres to thousands of acres. Buyers have a variety of motives, whether it's building a legacy for their family, having a home base for hunting, or being close to nearby recreational opportunities. And there's a bonus: quality timber that grows over time and that can be sold by the new owner.

ELR: *I understand you have a very unique listing in Minnesota. Tell the Land Report readers about that.*

BD: We have 2,000 acres for sale north of Ely, Minnesota, not far from the US/Canada border. It's adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which has been named by National Geographic and others as one of America's top outdoor destinations. We're developing a master plan vision for the property now, and there's also strong potential for conservation. It'll be a great find for the lucky buyer. 🇺🇸

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WEST

UNDER CONTRACT

COLORADO RANCLAND

NAVAJO NATION TO BUY WOLF SPRINGS RANCH ACREAGE.

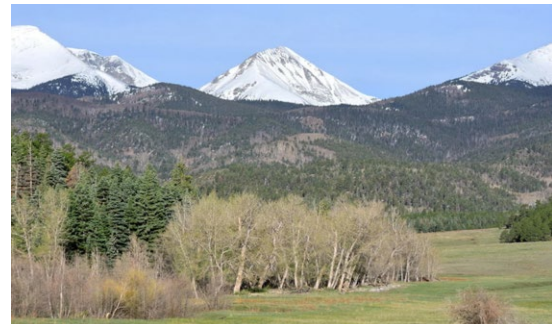
According to the Associated Press, Navajo Nation lawmakers have given the go-ahead for the \$23 million

purchase of 16,379 acres situated in the 55,486-acre Central Colorado property, which is listed with [Ranch Marketing Associates](#) and M4 Ranch Group for \$49 million. Grazing, development, and cultural uses are among the planned uses by the Navajos. Located on the eastern

slope of the Sangre de Cristos, Wolf Springs is owned by Aussie products founder Tom Redmond.

According to the Ranch Marketing Associates website, the hair care

entrepreneur spent years assembling the holding via public land swaps and private purchases. Wolf Springs Ranch was originally listed in 2014 for \$54.7 million.



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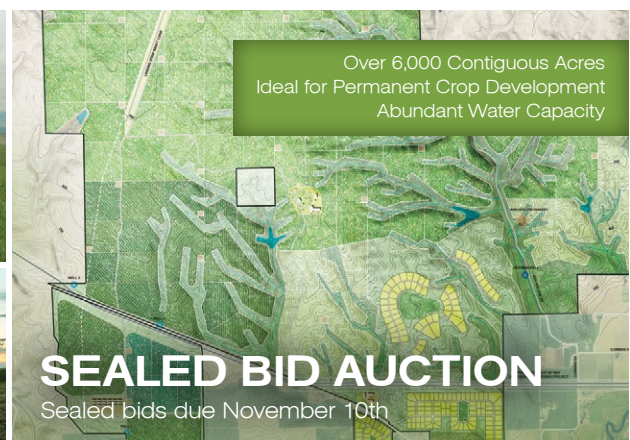
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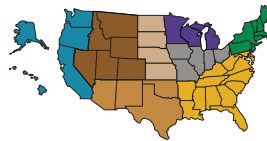
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NATIONAL AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION

SCOTT SHUMAN TO HELM NATIONAL AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION (NAA).

The head of Hall and Hall Auctions, Shuman was named president of the organization on July 13 at the International Auctioneers Conference and Show in Columbus, Ohio. As part of the selection process, 32 former NAA presidents passed a ceremonial gavel by hand from one to another at the sold-out President's Gala until it came to rest in Shuman's.



The Hall and Hall partner described the ceremonial welcome as one of the best moments of his life. Founded in 1949, the NAA is the world's largest professional association dedicated to auction professionals. Read more about Scott [HERE](#).

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ELR: Steve, some of our readers may not be familiar with BaseCampLeasing.com but you have been around since 1999. Tell us how you started and where the business is today.

SPM: Growing up in Kansas, I moved to Indiana in 1992 as a commodity broker. Even with farming connections, I could not find access to quality hunting land. I figured I wasn't the only one with this problem, so I started the business in 1999. I was first to market.

ELR: Your landowners are a combination of private landowners and larger corporate landowners. I understand that corporate member entity has become a focus for you. Tell us about both.

SPM: We see a lot of interest from corporate landowners that want to focus on their core business. We get a premium for the hunting rights and take the headaches off their plate.

ELR: What's in it for the landowner to participate? I understand they receive a fee and liability insurance.




SMP: The landowner receives 75% of the revenue generated by the lease, and a \$3 million liability policy that covers them and the hunters.

ELR: Where is land most in demand by your end-users, the sportsmen? Where are you looking to expand?

SPM: Big whitetail country is the highest demand market. That's antlers, not body size. The Midwest represents the largest part of our business, but our model is conducive to any whitetail hunting. Annual hunting rights allow the hunter to manage the deer herd as if they owned the land.

ELR: What's the best way for landowners to get in touch with you?

SPM: Call us at 866-309-1507 for a free informational packet or go to <http://www.basecampleasing.com/landowners/hunting-land-lease.htm> 

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