

BEARTRACK MINE

Site Closure
Salmon, Idaho

Client:

Meridian Beartrack
Company

Contract Value:

\$75,000

Performance Period:

1997 – Present

Technical Areas:

- Remediation
- Solid Waste Management
- Water Resources
- Financial and Risk Management

Successes:

Assisted the mining company in developing and implementing cost-effective site closure plans based on water balance management

Provided the technical expertise on which the EPA based its decision to extend the period in which less stringent NPDES standards applied



BACKGROUND

Meridian Beartrack Mine is located west of Salmon, Idaho, and is owned by Yamana Gold, Inc. The mine ceased gold production in 1997 and has been in closure since that time. Key closure issues include the capping of a 120-acre heap leach pad, capping the acid generating waste rock, site drainage controls and revegetation, pH lake water management and collection of acid flow, storage, treatment and discharge under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

SES ROLE

The technical support that SES has been providing to the mining company has allowed them to move forward with a cost-effective closure plan.

Services provided by SES staff members include:

- Site waste water balance modeling
- Evaluation of ground water and mine waste geochemistry
- Assistance with the design of surface drainage systems
- Refinements to the acid generating waste rock cap design and negotiation of final details with the regulatory agencies
- Heap leach cover design
- Construction Quality Assurance for the waste rock and heap leach caps
- Expert witness for insurance claims



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