

# Ethical Metalsmiths

Connecting People with Responsibly Sourced Materials

Re: Source

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Newsletter No. 3

March 2009

Perceptions have changed! People are concerned about fair labor practices and ask for conflict free diamonds. One-hundred-thousand consumers have signed the [nodirtygold pledge](#) demanding responsibly sourced gold. Five years ago greener choices weren't even on the menu. Today, there are a number of initiatives working toward sustainable development, best practices, and certification that will make it possible to track materials throughout the supply chain. Your support is helping this along. Change is underway and there will opportunities in 2009 for jewelers and metalsmiths like you to continue to play a significant role.

Our vision is a world in which people can create and enjoy jewelry made with responsibly sourced materials. We look forward to a time when we can trace where materials come from and be assured they are truly clean and green. The process of getting there seems slow, but we have seen incredible progress since we started working together in 2004.

[Mining Reform Bill Re-introduced to Congress](#)

[Mount Tenabo](#)

[Radical Jewelry Makeover](#)

[Green Jewelry Class at Revere Academy](#)

[In the News](#)

[Can you Help?](#)

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## **Mining Reform Bill Re-introduced to Congress**

President Ulysses Grant, signed a mining law in 1872 that remains the law of the land. Its purpose was to promote the settlement of publicly-owned lands in the west. The law prioritized mining over all other uses, land sold for \$5 per acre and pick and shovel mining was the rule. Today public land is still sold to domestic and foreign mining corporations at rock bottom prices and mining still trumps all other uses. The law does not protect the environment from the impacts of large-scale industrial mining taking place today, and unlike the oil and gas industries, mining companies pay no royalties!

On January 27, Congressman Nick Rahall and 21 co-sponsors introduced The Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009, H.R.699. Its passage would balance the need for mining against other land uses and establish environmental and reclamation standards that protect community health, water supplies, fish and wildlife. Passage of this bill would be a big step in improving mining practices in the United States. For comprehensive information about mining reform we refer you to the [Pew Campaign for Responsible Mining](#).

Jewelers and metalsmiths and customers have a stake in the outcome. Increasingly, people who buy jewelry want assurance that the materials are from ethical sources, and with few exceptions, we are unable to trace materials to the source. Jewelers have always recycled gold, and using recycled gold from a responsible supplier is a good choice. However, if you envision a future in which metals are more responsibly sourced, from mines that are regulated by federal law and meet modern environmental standards, you should back this bill.

Recycling precious metals is a tradition we can be proud of and it is a good choice. However, if we want to improve mining in the US, recycling is not enough. Recycling has no effect on mining practices and sidesteps the need for real change. Big mining interests (and their lobbyists) will be in Washington "crying crocodile tears." Legislators need to hear from us too! You can do more than recycle. You can use recycled gold and do what you can to encourage the mining reform bill. In the coming months, we will let you know how.

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## Mount Tenabo



photo by Ethical Metalsmiths

[Mount Tenabo](#) is a place in northeastern Nevada that is central to the world view, cultural and spiritual practices of the Western Shoshone. The mountain and valley below have been used by the Shoshone since beginning of time. It is their ancestral homeland and the heart of their religion. Today it is where Western Shoshone people come together for prayer ceremonies, gathering food and medicinal plants, fasting and vision quests.

You would think that the US Government would uphold the rights of Native Americans before it granted mining rights to a foreign company.

That is not the case. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is allowing the world's largest gold mining company Barrick Gold, to devastate Mount Tenabo, dismissing its religious and cultural values, putting profit above religious freedom.

In addition violating human rights, there are unanswered questions about the mine's environmental



Please consider donating gold, silver, stones and old jewelry. Donors of precious metals will receive discount coupons for purchasing jewelry. To take part, please fill out a [donation form](#) PDF and send it with your jewelry. (Keep the bottom portion of the form for your records.) Hand deliver or mail donations to:

Penland School of Crafts  
c/o Adam Whitney  
PO Box 37  
67 Dora's Trail  
Penland, NC 28765

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### Green Jewelry Class at Revere Academy



Christine Dhein and Jennifer Horning

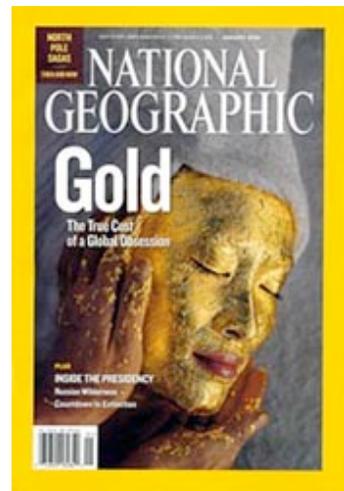
Read how [Revere has gone green!](#) Back by popular demand, this one day class will take place March 7. It offers jewelers information about the sourcing and sustainability of materials. Learn where gold comes from, about green suppliers and what you can do to promote healthy mining practices. Learn how to respond to customers' questions about the sourcing and sustainability of your materials.

The class will include gold testing, ingot making, safe and eco-friendly studio practices, future green business certification, and more. It will be taught by Christine Dhein and Jennifer Horning. Read the [class description](#) and [register now](#). We thank the Revere Academy and instructors for donating \$50 of each to registration to Ethical Metalsmiths.

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### In the News

The cover story of the January issue of National Geographic Magazine, [The Real Price of Gold: The True Cost of a Global Obsession](#), describes in human terms, gold's importance and the lengths people will go to obtain it. "For all of its allure, gold's human and environmental toll has never been so steep." Please read and share it with your friends and colleagues.



If you didn't get through our long December newsletter, [Re: Source, Newsletter No. 2](#) is archived on our web site. Ethical Metalsmiths received mention in What Jewelers Mean When They Say Green in the January issue of Modern Jeweler, and in Toronto's National Post weekly environmental column, Footprint, on December 4, 2008.

### Can you Help?

Yes you can! And thanks to those who already have. We really appreciate your support. The new year has inspired us with hope and renewed dedication to Ethical Metalsmiths. We know all too well that money is tight right now, but if you share our vision of a more ethical and transparent supply chain, consider making an investment in the future. [Make a tax deductible donation to Ethical Metalsmiths](#). It is easy to donate online using our secure server. You can also send a check Payable to Ethical Metalsmiths to Post Office Box 222492, Carmel CA 93923

We look forward to working with you, our suppliers, our friends in the environmental and human rights sectors, and with the New Congress, Secretary of the Interior Salazar and our new President —toward a more ethical future for jewelry.

Susan Kingsley and Christina Miller  
Co-founders, Ethical Metalsmiths



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