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PRESS RELEASE

April 19, 2006
For immediate release

Idaho Rivers United
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Boise River makes the Most Endangered Rivers list

NOTE TO REPORTERS: IRU and ICL will hold a press briefing on this listing Wednesday, April 19th at 10 am along the banks of the Boise River at the Ann Morrison Park foot bridge. Fourth grade students from Anser Charter School, who completed projects focusing on the Boise River last year, will be present to highlight why they think the river is valuable to our community. IRU's conservation director Kevin Lewis and ICL's John Robison will highlight the dangers of the proposed mine. The speakers and students will be available following the briefing to respond to questions, and the students will release trout that they've raised in the classroom into the river.

WASHINGTON – A Canadian mining company's proposal for a cyanide heap leach gold mine upstream of Boise placed the Boise River in the top ten list of the nation's most endangered rivers. American Rivers listed the Boise River as America's sixth-most endangered river for 2006.

Idaho's Boise River provides drinking water for 50,000 people, irrigates 300,000 acres of farmland, and hosts over 100,000 floaters a year. The mining company, Atlanta Gold, plans to blast two giant pits and remove over 1,000 feet of mountain in the river's headwaters. Rock taken from the pits would be crushed and placed on leach pads, then doused with a cyanide solution to extract any gold. More than 27 million tons of mining waste containing arsenic would be dumped in a valley overlooking the town of Atlanta, Idaho.

Sportsmen, conservationists, and families downstream are concerned about the massive amounts of cyanide and diesel fuel that will be hauled and stored on site. The Boise River provides more than 20 percent of Boise's drinking water supply

"When you look at the slew of hazardous chemicals involved, cyanide is only the tip of the iceberg. In addition to trucking over a million pounds of cyanide along the river every year, the mine would require hauling 611 truckloads of diesel fuel and stockpiling it in the heart of our watershed," said John Robison of the Idaho Conservation League.

"Cyanide heap leach mining has an abysmal record of environmental damage. Despite assurances that this project will involve "state of the art technology" the reality is, this type of mining process consistently fails," said Kevin Lewis of Idaho Rivers United.

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American Rivers and its partners on the Boise, the Idaho Conservation League and Idaho Rivers United, today called on state and federal decision makers to deny key permits for the proposed open pit mine. "The Boise River is the lifeblood of the Treasure Valley," said Kevin Lewis of Idaho Rivers United. "Over 40% of Idahoans use the river for drinking water, irrigation, and recreation. We simply can't let the possibility of a toxic spill threaten the valley's most important resource. "

The annual America's Most Endangered Rivers report highlights ten rivers facing a major turning point in the coming year, where action by citizens can make a huge difference for both community well-being and river health. The report highlights the rivers facing the most uncertain futures rather than those suffering from the worst chronic problems. The report identifies those who make the crucial decisions, and points out opportunities for the public to take action on behalf of each listed river. For more information, visit:

http://www.americanrivers.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AMR_MER2006_pressroom

Embargo Terms

- The story may not appear in print, be posted to a public website, posted to a broadcast-oriented wire, or be broadcast before April 19th at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time
- The Associated Press and other services may post the story to their print wires the afternoon of Tuesday, April 18th with a "hold for release until 12:01 a.m." slug.
 - Reporters who agree to these terms may receive advance copies of the report and supporting materials.

Balanced reporting under the embargo

- American Rivers encourages balanced reporting of the "endangered rivers" story, but we don't want to provide other parties the opportunity to break the embargo
- Reporters can contact government officials and other VIPs identified in the report at the time of their choosing for a general reaction to the issues raised by the report if they don't mention the report by name
- American Rivers will provide courtesy copies of the report to key stakeholders at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18th. After this time, reporters may contact anyone for their reaction to the report specifically.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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