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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Tim Urbaniak and our family has owned property above Stanley Coulee for over 26 years. From there, we have a commanding view of the mountain front, a straight-up-the-valley look towards Cooke City, and a front row seat for mining activity, particularly in the valley directly in front of our property. You can spot our house up on the hill easy - it's the one with a turret.

Now, a couple of things to throw out there - firstly, we were able to purchase that property after it had been on the market for a long time while the big pond was being built. The price kept getting reduced, as the bulldozers and trucks scurried across the valley floor. When the realtor showed us the property, he was apologetic for the construction\destruction. I remember kind of shrugging and saying something like "well, that's ok - I have made plenty of money drawing structural steel for the mine," which was true, in an early chapter of my life in structural fabrication. Our steel company supplied material for the restart in the 80s. Fair enough. We need minerals, the mountain has minerals. Fair enough. Good jobs follow. fair enough. I can't say that I have any swords to grind against the mine, quite the opposite - in my later life as an educator, graduates of our program worked at the mine. I have been with a tour to the bottom. Placed my hand against the live vein. Mining. Powerful stuff. We are neighbors. We have watched you move the earth and the water. We were watching the day the helicopter dropped one of the big steel powerpoles hundreds of feet up as the pick failed! We seen some stuff. No trout in the "clean" pond yet? Pity. When the Stanley Coulee Road (to our house) got blown out a couple of years ago, you folks stepped in and fixed it, and for that we thank you.

Having said that, I first started traveling the Stillwater Canyon in the mid 1970s. I had discovered nirvana. I have hiked the trail from Cooke City down several times. Skied and snowshoed down from there in the mid-1980s. Pretty sure that with all the weekend and week-long trips that we took, I believe I have over a full cumulative calendar year in the upper valley. My point is that I have had a long, constant, look at the valley. Today, as an anthropologist, I know where sites are located both on my - and your - property. I would trust you to avoid them. If some locations are unclear, I would be delighted to discuss. Cultural landscapes are amorphous things, but let's do what we can to preserve ours.

The valley is a beautiful thing. I know you have a job to, but let's not bugger it up. I have attached a copy of the view from our house from 2018.