



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Release 2021-03

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Chatburn 332-1660
john.chatburn@oer.idaho.gov
Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Governor Proclaims December 6 as Idaho Mining Day

Monday, December 6, 2021

Boise, ID – Today, Governor Brad Little proclaims December 6, 2021 as Idaho Mining Day, and encourages all Idahoans to seek information about mining operations in Idaho and show support for the hardworking Idahoans who provide minerals that sustain the quality of life for its citizens and the nation.

Congress designated December 6th as National Mining Day "in appreciation, honor, and remembrance of the accomplishments and sacrifices of the miners of the nation." The designation recognizes the 1907 Monongah mine explosion in West Virginia and the commitment made by miners throughout the nation and their families.

Idaho's mining legacy has shaped the settlement of the state, brought worldwide recognition to Idaho's natural resources, and will continue to provide domestically sourced raw materials to advance modern technology.

The full text of the Governor's proclamation follows:

WHEREAS, the United States of America recognizes December 6th to honor the contributions of this country's mining workforce and acknowledge the vital role mining plays in national prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America recognizes the sacrifices that have been made by individuals in the mining industry, marking the anniversary of the December 6, 1907 mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Idaho recognizes the profound role mining has played in the settlement of the "Gem State" and will continue to play in our future; and

WHEREAS, the discovery of gold along Canal Gulch near Pierce, Idaho in 1860 commenced one of the largest migrations in American history; and

WHEREAS, the significant discovery of gold in the Boise Basin of Idaho led to the founding of Boise City as a supply outpost for the Boise and Owyhee mining districts, thereby leading to the establishment of Boise as the capital of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the great seal of the state of Idaho depicts a miner, symbolizing how mining has been a cornerstone in the building of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has a diverse geologic and mineral resource within its boundaries which includes world-class deposits of silver, phosphate, and cobalt as well as numerous other minerals and gems; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho state song “Here We Have Idaho”, references Idaho’s vast resources of silver and gold; and

WHEREAS, Idaho’s world-class phosphate district plays a significant role in advancing the agricultural needs within our state, nation, and world; and

WHEREAS, mining in Idaho has supplied the nation and world with minerals necessary for today’s modern lifestyle including computer chips, medical devices, infrastructure, and renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, Idaho’s mining industry has played a significant role in national safety and security by providing the raw materials necessary to defend our nation in times of conflict; and

WHEREAS, mining and mine processing provides more than 13,000 direct and indirect jobs throughout Idaho with a payroll of \$664 million, and an economic impact of over \$1 billion to the Gross State Product;

NOW THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho do hereby proclaim December 6, 2021, to be Idaho Mining Day in Idaho, and I urge all Idaho citizens to join me in this special observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 6th day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

###