

REGIONAL NEWS

March 31 deadline for comments on SR97 pond excavation project

by Jim Fossett
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KITTITAS COUNTY – Scott and Gayle McIntosh have asked the county for permission to team with MDJ Development on a project that would see three ponds on their property excavated.

Kittitas County Planner Jeff Watson said the cutoff for comments on the proposal is Tuesday, March 31, before 5 p.m.

As MDJ explains in documents filed with the county, “The landowners want to do this to help with their cattle operation. We’ll wash or screen the material we excavate and then haul it offsite to one of many [housing] developments in progress.

“With growth in Kittitas County it is an ongoing challenge to keep up with the demand of construction materials.”

By “building materials” MDJ is referring to the sand and gravel to be excavated from the three ponds.

The company is said to

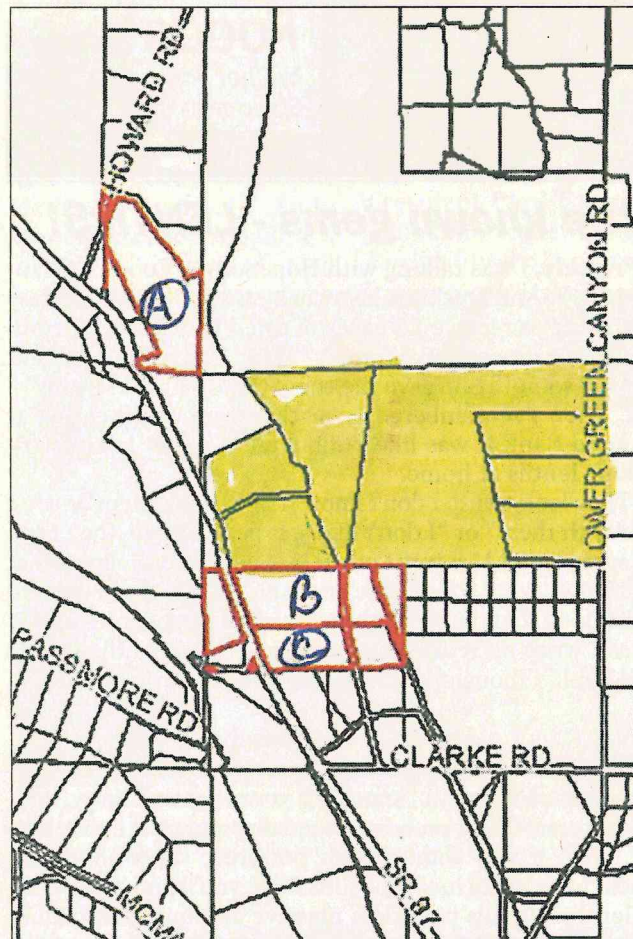
have submitted a plan for cleanup and a low impact approach to the surrounding environment, including Dry Creek.

The address of the McIntosh property is 7820 SR97.

Wrote Watson in a recent memo, “This may be the only opportunity for the public to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposal.

“Mitigation measures may be required under applicable codes, such as Title 17 Zoning, Title 17A Critical Areas, and the Fire Code, and the project review process may incorporate or require mitigation measures regardless of whether an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared. A copy of the threshold determination may be obtained from the county.”

Submit comments in writing to Community Development Services, 411 North Ruby, Ellensburg 98926, reference: CU-14-00004 McIntosh.



SITE OF THE MCINTOSH PROPOSAL (yellow) and the three adjacent property owners (A, B and C) likely to comment on the project, which aims to excavate three ponds owned by Scott and Gayle McIntosh.

Map courtesy of Kittitas Co. Community Development Services

There's Liberty Gold on YouTube

by Jim Fossett
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LIBERTY – Two years ago miner Rob Repin wrote, “On Sunday, October 6, 2013 Mike Corbley and his mining partners Andy Herndon, Curtis Dorr and Sam Price dug up two extraordinary pieces of gold from a patch of ground in the Swauk mining district near the town of Liberty that for 140 years, among the miners of the area, has been affectionately referred to as the “potato patch.” The largest of the nuggets discovered weighed 16.25 ounces and that ignited the thing inside and outside the gold mining community that keeps miners in ‘them thar hills.’

Following a March 11 lecture at the Hal Holmes

Center, Repin teamed with acclaimed Central Washington University geology professor Nick Zentner to publish a YouTube video entitled *Liberty Gold Mining Geology*, in which Repin via question and answer format – talks with Zentner about gold deposits in the county’s Swauk Mining district. Check it out with search on YouTube by typing “Zentner Repin.”

The big story

If you missed the story Repin wrote about the gold discovery of 2013, visit nkctribune.com and for a couple of dollars order back issue dated Oct. 2013, in which Repin’s story appears. The story title is *Largest gold nuggets in recent history discovered in Swauk mining district.*

Tax Deadline Reminder!

Personal Taxes, Sole Proprietor, and Partnerships are due April 15, 2015

We are OPEN SATURDAYS, 10AM - 2PM during tax season

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