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BOZEMAN, MONTANA, May 12, 2023 – The Greater Yellowstone Coalition announced an ambitious campaign this week to buy out a mining company on the northern border of Yellowstone National Park. If successful, the effort would extinguish the last real and significant mining threat on the border of Yellowstone National Park, forever.

Based on an agreement signed on October 1, 2021, between the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) and Crevice Mining Group, LLC, GYC plans to purchase the mineral rights, leases, and claims to 1,368 acres of land on Crevice Mountain, which rises directly above the Yellowstone River and town of Gardiner, Montana, for $6.25M by October 1, 2023. The organization has raised $3,801,357 in pledges and gifts so far.

“Given the significant threat this mine presents to Yellowstone National Park and its resources, we worked diligently to negotiate an agreement with the mining company that provides a win-win outcome,” said Scott Christensen, GYC’s executive director. “We simply cannot risk a gold mine being developed on the boundary of the park and this approach will protect these critical lands, the Yellowstone River, and the local community, while allowing the company to walk away. This is a big lift for GYC, and we know we cannot fail.”

The mine site, visible from the Roosevelt Arch and perched above the Yellowstone River, provides vital habitat for grizzly bears. It is also a critical migration corridor for elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep, and is one of the few designated places outside the park where Yellowstone bison can roam.

“GYC came up with a palatable solution, and we said yes,” said Dr. Michael Werner of Crevice Mining Group, LLC. “We have met all legal requirements to mine on Crevice Mountain, have millions of dollars already invested, and there are tens of millions of dollars to be made, but GYC was in the right place at the right time, with the right idea,” he continued. “If GYC does not meet our agreement, we will mine.”

If this mine were to move forward, it would forever change the landscape along the border of the world’s first national park. Instead of pristine, untamed wild lands, an industrial mining complex with lights, machines, and new roads would destroy critical wildlife habitat and potential poison the famed Yellowstone River below.
For more than a decade, the mining company has made significant investments in the development of a gold mine. “Without intervention, the mine would move forward,” stated Melissa Richey, GYC’s director of philanthropy. “This campaign is our generation’s best opportunity to protect what we love about Yellowstone National Park. People understand its significance – this is a legacy project – but we still need more people to step up and help in these last few months as we approach our deadline.”

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, celebrating a milestone anniversary this year, has a history of hard-won victories protecting the region and the park from proposed gold mines. Notable victories include stopping the New World Mine near Cooke City, Montana in the 1990s and successfully advocating with the Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition, representing more than 400 local businesses and nonprofits, to pass the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act in 2019. That legislation permanently protected 30,370 acres of public lands near Yellowstone National Park from mining. However, the private lands on Crevice Mountain slated for mining were exempted from the protections enacted by the bill.

“For decades, we have worked with communities to demonstrate Yellowstone National Park is more valuable than gold,” continued Scott Christensen. “The announcement of this campaign and the innovative approach it employs shows that when people work together, we can find lasting solutions that safeguard something we all love.”

In addition to the agreement with the mining company, GYC is also working with willing landowners on Crevice Mountain to purchase more than 300 acres of private land in-holdings. “Crevice is not only rich with wildlife, but for the handful of people who live here, home to a rapidly disappearing way of life,” stated Joe Josephson, GYC’s senior Montana conservation associate, who has led this effort for GYC over the past eight years. “As someone who has worked closely with communities on and around Crevice Mountain, it’s clear the border of Yellowstone is no place for a gold mine.”

The ultimate goal of this effort is to transfer ownership of the 300+ acres to the Custer Gallatin National Forest, making them accessible to the public and permanently protected from future mining through the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act.

“We know that extinguishing the threat of this gold mine is the only path forward,” said GYC executive director Scott Christensen. “This campaign will help ensure future generations can experience Yellowstone National Park like we do today. That’s what we all want for our kids and grandkids.”

Donations in any amount will be accepted through October 1, 2023. To learn more or donate, visit the campaign website at greateryellowstone.org/yellowstone-mine or call Melissa Richey, director of philanthropy, at 406-586-1593.

GYC will also be hosting a free Webinar, on Tuesday, May 19 from 4 – 5 pm MT, which discusses this project and the organization’s history of stopping mines on Yellowstone’s doorstep. Learn more and RSVP at greateryellowstone.org/events. Additionally, the group will host an Open House in Bozeman on Tuesday, May 23 from 4-6 p.m. MT for those who wish to learn more about the campaign. Location is Greater Yellowstone Coalition | 215 South Wallace Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715.

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The Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC), founded in 1983, is a conservation organization that works with all people to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Their vision is one where wild nature flourishes; plant, animal, and human communities thrive in reciprocity; and all people work together to conserve one of the last remaining, globally significant ecosystems.
GYC’s offices, strategically placed in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho allow the organization to engage in a wide variety of efforts locally, regionally, and nationally to ensure Greater Yellowstone's lands, waters, and wildlife are protected now and well into the future. Visit GYC online at greateryellowstone.org to learn more.

Photos can be viewed and downloaded for media here: (copyright William Campbell, used with written permission)

https://www.williamcampbell.photography/gallery/Crevice-Mine-Yellowstone-Border/G0000qdkebGKmH.8/C0000a3HB8UYTkY4

Password: Border  (capital B)
See following page for additional details.

Quick Facts:

- A prospective mine, lawfully owned by the Crevice Mining Group, LLC, sits on private lands along Yellowstone National Park’s northern border and poses a significant threat to the region’s wild character, wildlife, and famous Yellowstone River.
- The mine site is situated some 3,000 vertical feet above the Yellowstone River, on Crevice Mountain. The area provides vital habitat for grizzly bears; is a critical migration corridor for elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep; and is one of the few designated places outside the park where Yellowstone bison can roam.
- After years of dogged advocacy and negotiations, GYC signed an agreement with Crevice Mining Group, LLC, that provides a window of opportunity – until October 1, 2023 – to raise $6.25M to purchase the mineral rights, leases, and claims to 1,368 acres on Crevice Mountain.
- The Greater Yellowstone Coalition has raised $3,749,444 so far and is now relying on the public to help raise the remaining funds to buy out the miner by the deadline.
- The Greater Yellowstone Coalition is also negotiating with willing landowners in the area to secure over 300 acres of private land inholdings.
- Our ultimate goal is to transfer ownership of the 300+ acres of land to the Custer Gallatin National Forest, making them public lands and therefore permanently protected under the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act. This final phase will extinguish the last remaining real threat of mining on Yellowstone National Park’s border once and for all.

Map of project site and additional details can be found here:
greateryellowstone.org/yellowstone-mine

The mine site sits some 3,000 vertical feet above the town of Gardiner, Montana, along the northern border of Yellowstone National Park. This photo, looking south, is a view of Yellowstone. ©William Campbell