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## Revett CEO happy with ruling on Rock Creek

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ELKO - Revett Minerals President and Chief Executive Officer John Shanahan said today he was "happy but not surprised" that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in the company's favor on the proposed Rock Creek Project in Montana.

"It's a pretty clear and concise opinion," he said, adding that he believes yet another appeal would have a slim chance.

The next step for the company is to complete a supplemental environmental impact statement on Rock Creek, and Shanahan said he hopes the U.S. Forest Service will issue a record of decision by the end of next year.

"We would start Rock Creek in late spring of 2013," he said.

The 9th Circuit earlier this week upheld the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's finding that the planned silver and copper mine beneath the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness won't significantly hurt grizzly bears and bull trout.

Jim Costello of the Rock Creek Alliance, which opposes the proposed mine, told the Missoulian members of the alliance were disappointed, but not surprised.

The Rock Creek Alliance and other groups had argued the proposed mine north of Noxon would harm bull trout by dumping sediment into the Rock Creek watershed.

The Fish and Wildlife Service found that 2.88 miles of Rock Creek would be affected, while the bull trout's critical habitat comprises 135 miles of stream. The effect on trout would be temporary, lasting about five to seven years, the agency found.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service adequately considered the impact that the mine could have on the habitat's value for bull trout recovery," according to the opinion written by Judge Harry Pregerson.

As to the grizzlies, Pregerson said a mitigation plan "was so robust that the Fish and Wildlife Service concluded it 'would in fact improve conditions of the long-term over the existing conditions, ultimately promoting the recovery of the (local) grizzly bear population.'"

According to Revett, Rock Creek is the largest undeveloped silver and copper deposit in North America, with an inferred resource of 229 million ounces of silver and 2 billion pounds of copper.

Shanahan said Revett's operation of the Troy Mine 35 road miles from Rock Creek has shown that an underground mine can be responsibly developed.

"The proof is in the pudding of what we do with Troy," he said.

Revett was an intervenor in the case that went to the 9th Circuit, and the supplemental EIS on Rock Creek is an offshoot of the legal action against the proposed mine because of a multiple ruling, Shanahan said.

He said the Rock Creek proposal has been "reviewed, reviewed, reviewed," and the scientists put a lot of work into it.