

Rich and Jan Gower

My husband and I are very concerned about the impact of the proposed silicon smelter on the air and water in Northern Idaho, specifically on lakes Pend Oreille and Priest. Lake Pend Oreille is a magnificent freshwater lake; one of the cleanest and deepest in the United States. Both Priest and Pend Oreille are havens for outdoor recreation. The proposed smelter will certainly contribute to acid rain and fouled air. We have just experienced yet another summer of smoke from wild fires, and with the construction of the smelter the air will be even more toxic, and will cause acid rain to pollute the lakes. We feel we are being assaulted on all sides, as we have been fighting the proposed Rock Creek and Montenaro mines for years, which will destroy Rock Lake, Rock Creek, and pollute the Clark Fork River in perpetuity. The polluted Clark Fork River will enter Lake Pend Oreille and despoil one of the last remaining clean lakes in the country. The fact that the smelter is being built by a Canadian company and will pollute our air and water is also troubling. At this time in history when the earth's environment is being attacked from many quarters, we hope that the Washington Department of Ecology and Governor Inslee will not permit the smelter to be built.