JOIN US

The Methow Headwaters Campaign is raising voices from all walks of life in support of our local economy and the beautiful landscape on which it depends. While this effort is diverse, bipartisan, and significant, we need more people joining this important effort. Together we must let our Congressional leaders, agency officials, and local elected officials know that the Methow Headwaters Campaign has a broad base of support that demands action. Please take a moment to support the campaign in three easy ways:

2. Follow Methow Headwaters on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
3. Donate in support of this important effort at www.methowheadwaters.org.

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

The Methow Headwaters Campaign is led by a diverse group of concerned Valley residents, businesses, and organizations dedicated to protecting the valley’s unique lifestyle and critical economic drivers—its natural beauty, diverse landscapes, clean waters, and rural character.

The Methow Valley is located in northwestern Washington State and well known for its world-class recreational opportunities, special rural charter and spectacular landscape. The mountains above the valley bring vital water to downstream fisheries, agriculture and municipalities. The Methow Headwaters Campaign is pursuing a mineral withdrawal to protect the area from the impacts of industrial mining. Learn more about this special place and how the withdrawal will sustain the valley’s prosperous local economy, communities and critical waters.

Photography: Matt Firth & Hannah Dewey

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THREAT + SOLUTION

The 1872 Mining Law allows mining on most federal public lands. Mineral withdrawals, which can be temporary or permanent, offer an opportunity to protect selected lands from industrial mining for ecological and economic reasons, while continuing to allow other existing uses. The Methow Headwaters is recognized as one such place and currently is being reviewed for a 20-year withdrawal, along with pending legislation for permanent withdrawal.

WHAT’S AT STAKE

JOBS + ECONOMY: Economic studies show that nearly 1 million people visit the Methow Valley each year, contributing $150+ million dollars annually to the Okanogan County economy.

CLEAN WATER: Water is the lifeblood of the Methow Valley. With 90% of the watershed in public ownership, the water that flows from the headwaters is cold and clean and supports important fish and wildlife, local farms and ranches, and municipal water supplies.

RECREATION: The Methow Valley is a scenic treasure that provides world-class recreation opportunities to hikers, climbers, skiers, mountain bikers, hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers, nature lovers, and many more!

WILDLIFE: The Methow Valley sits at a unique convergence of ecological systems resulting in tremendous biodiversity found nowhere else in the lower 48. This landscape is home to 7 federally protected fish and wildlife species, 5 of which have designated critical habitat.

SALMON RECOVERY: The Methow is critical to Upper Columbia salmon recovery, and to date, nearly $100 million has been invested in recovery and restoration.

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SAM LUCY
Owner and Farmer, Bluebird Grain Farms

“We grow high-quality food that we sell in the valley and all around the country, and that quality of food depends on this region's lands and the clean air and clean water that are the heart of this valley. Maintaining the quality of this place is important to my business, the products we grow, and the local economy, which is why a successful mineral withdrawal is so important.”