



Ground Water Rule Approved

The 2009 Legislature approved changes to the ground water rules for mining. This culminated a three-year effort by IMA to assure that state regulations recognized the unique aspects of mining's impact on ground water. The new rule protects ground water quality beyond the mine site but does not apply stringent drinking water standards in mined areas. The rule had previously been approved unanimously by the Board of Environmental Quality and was supported by the Otter administration.



Mining Summit with Governor Otter

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter spend half a day with IMA Operating and Exploration Members hear updates on current operations, plans for mine expansions and the prospects for new mine development. The Governor was joined by his Chief of Staff, legal counsel, special assistant for natural resource and top environmental advisor. The Governor reiterated his strong support for the industry and his willingness to be of assistance when needed.



Mine Tours



State officials, including Lieutenant Governor Brad Little and Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, toured Idaho mines and processing facilities this summer. The tours, sponsored and organized by IMA, included the Thompson Creek Mine, the Smoky Canyon Mine, the Dry Valley Mine, the South Rasmussen Mine, the proposed Blackfoot Bridge Mine, and the Monsanto and Agrium processing plants.



Other officials participating in the tours were Senate President Pro Tem Robert Geddes, House Assistant Majority Leader Scott Bedke, House Resources and Conservation Committee Chairman John "Bert" Stevenson, Senators Denton Darrington, Steve Bair, Curt McKenzie, and Diane Bilyeu, Representatives Ken Andrus, Marc Gibbs, Tom Loertscher, Maxine Bell, Judy Boyle, Phylis King, Donna Pence, James Ruchti and Marc Gibbs, Deputy State Controller Scott Phillips, Governor Otter's Chief of Staff Jason Kreizenbeck, Deputy Attorney General Clive Strong and DEQ Board members Joan Cloonan and Carol Mascarenas.



Legislative Dinners

The 18th annual IMA Legislative Dinner was held in February. This year's event was the largest ever with over 100 people in attendance. In November we hosted a Legislative Dinner for eastern Idaho legislators and guests in conjunction with the Fall Board of Directors meeting.

Congressional Visits

In May, the IMA Board of Directors met with all four members of Idaho's congressional delegation and hosted the 37th annual "Idaho Evening in Washington" for the delegation and their staffs.