Module 6
Impacts of Gold Mining

Group 1: Legacy of Pre-Regulation Gold Mining in the United States

Please use your assigned class and group readings/videos to answer the following questions. You may also use information gained in previous classes on mineral resources. Please work as a group and put all of your names on the answer sheet. Keep in mind, each of you will individually need this information for your next group.

1) Explain some health risks associated with exposure to mercury.

2) Explain why mercury contamination is often associated with (older) gold mining sites in the United States, including the Carson River and Nevada City sites.

3) List and explain some ways that mercury can travel and contaminate the region near old mine sites.

4) If there is not an issue with inhalation of airborne mercury vapors, then what are the health issues at the Carson River site?

5) What are some of the concerns that the Friends of Deer Creek and Nevada City might need to confront in trying to reclaim old mine lands for parks and recreation, which would also include access to those areas by young children?