

### Use of Tunnel Boring Machines in Mine Development at the Stillwater and East Boulder Mines

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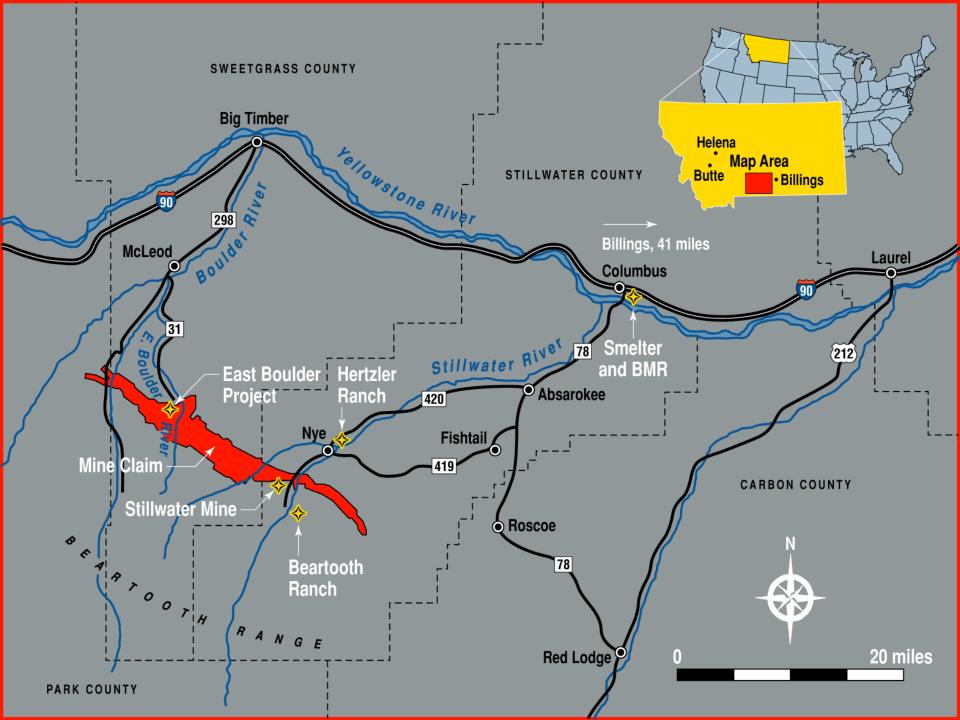
### SMC

#### Stillwater Mining Company

Largest Primary Producer of PGM's in North America

#### Operates 2 UG Mines in Montana

- Nye mine, started in the late 1980's
- East Boulder mine, stated in the late 1990's
- Narrow Vein Mining Methods on the Reef



# Stillwater Mining Company

### STILLWATER MINE

# **Stillwater Mining Company**

### EAST BOULDER MINE



### Stillwater Mining Company; Environmental Overview

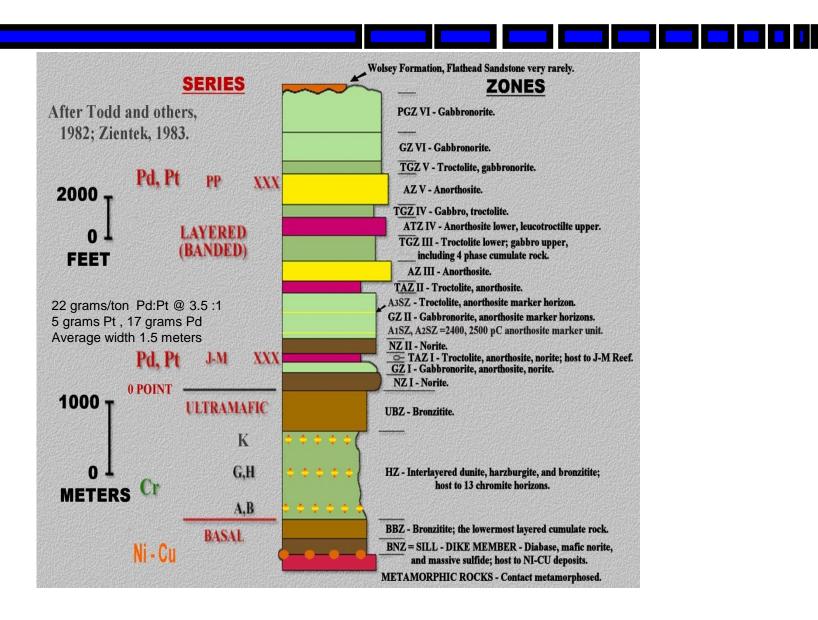
- A cornerstone of our Operations
  - Integration within the Operation
  - Open-Door Policy
- Sensitive Environment
  - Stillwater River
  - <2 miles from Wilderness Area</li>
  - <50 miles from Yellowstone National Park</li>
  - Wildlife Habitat

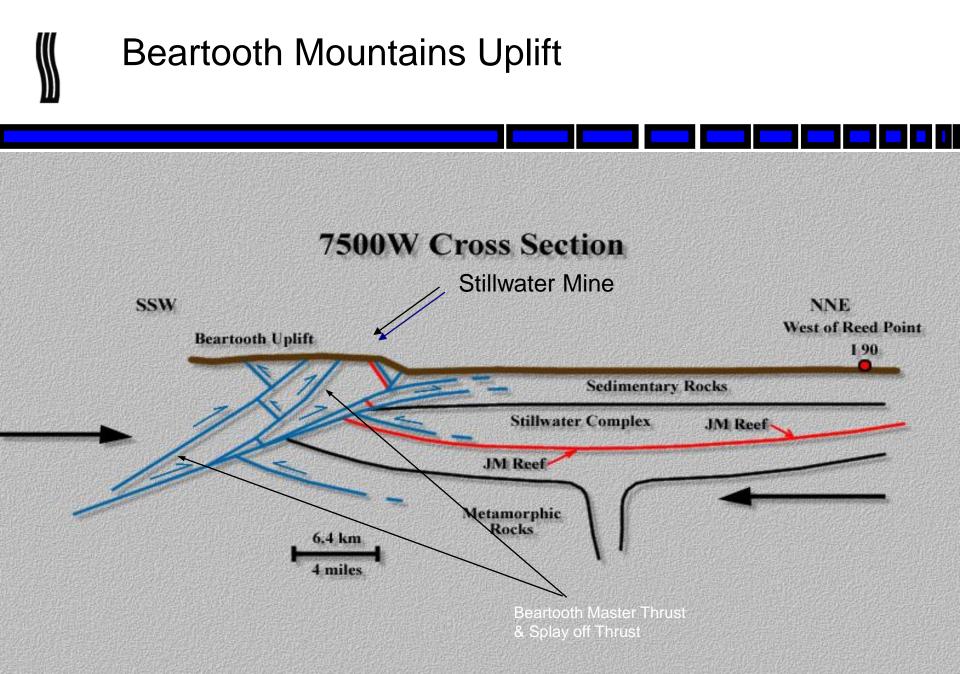
**Open and Honest Communication** 

- Partnership
  - Forest Service
    - State of Montana
    - Public "Our Neighbors"

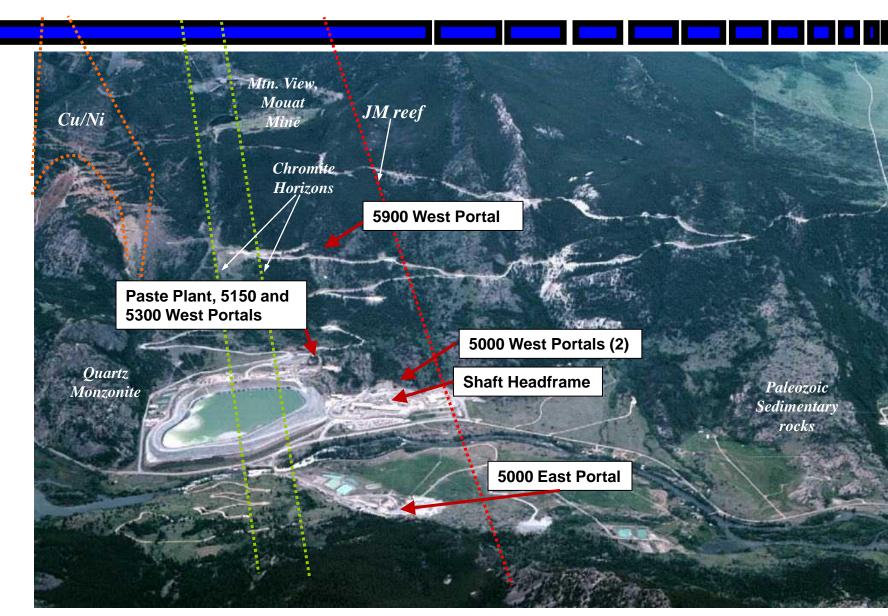


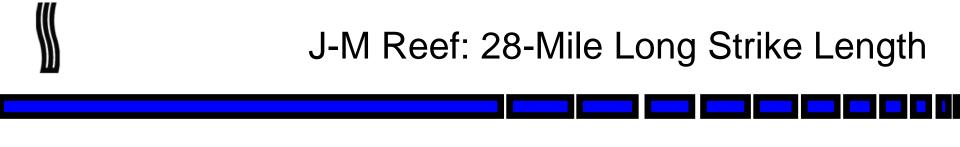
### Stillwater Complex Stratigraphic Column

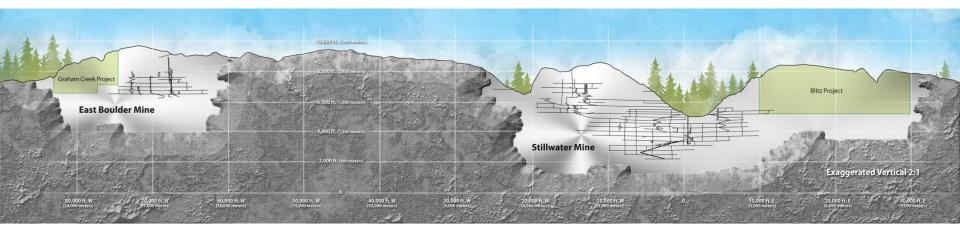




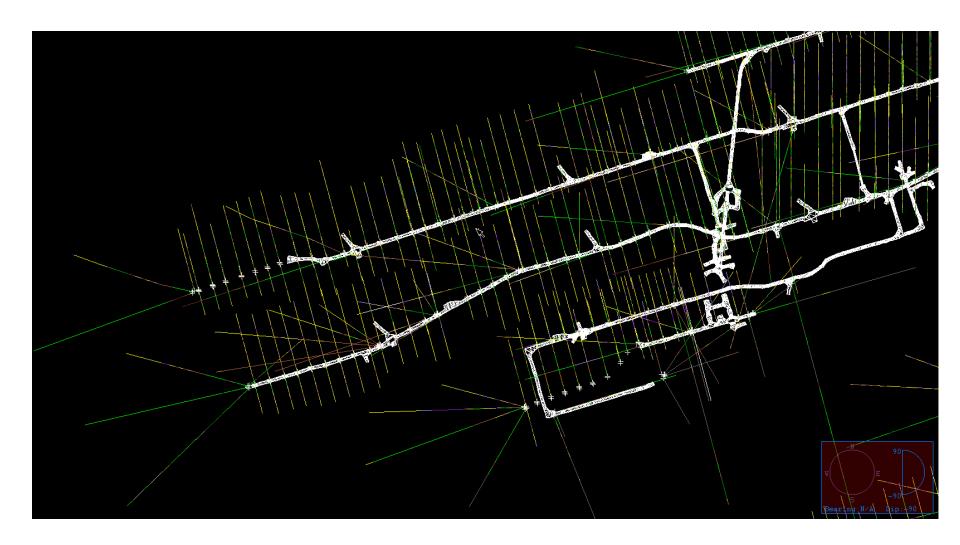
### Tilted Stillwater Complex Exposed in the Valley











### **Rationale for TBM Compared to Conventional**

- Higher advance rate
  - Generally, straight advances greater than 4,000 ft long
- Schedule Advantage
- Ground support- natural arch and no blast damage

#### Ventilation

- Uses different skill set then conventional Drill/Blast, reduces manpower conflict
- "Pre-Built" Rail Haulage

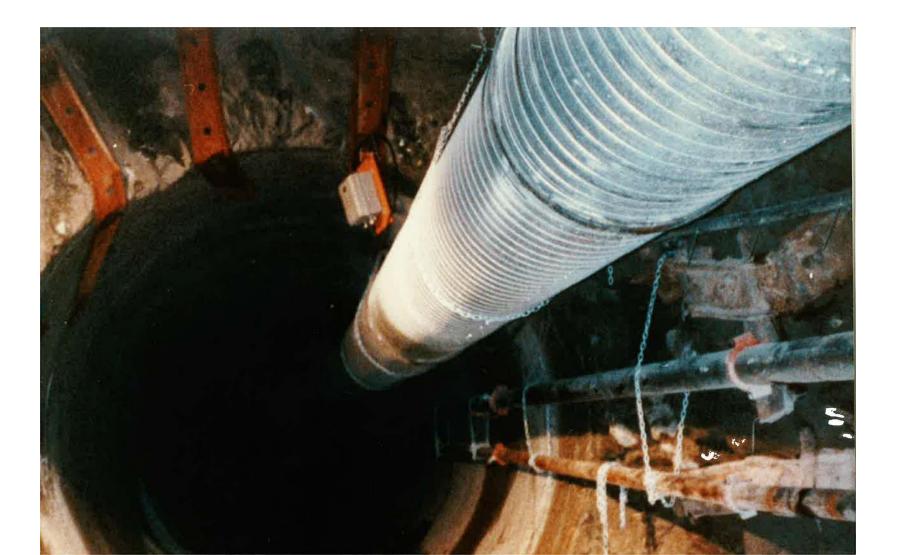
# Stillwater Mining Company TBM Development

- Stillwater Mine- 1988 to 1991
  - Jarvka 13 ' diameter
    - » 26,430 feet on 4 levels
  - Future: 2012 Blitz Project Robbins 18' diameter
- East Boulder Mine 1998 to 2000
  - CTS and Robbins 15' diameter
    - » 37,492 feet- twin access tunnels
  - Current: 2011 Graham Creek
  - Total SMC TBM Development > 12 miles

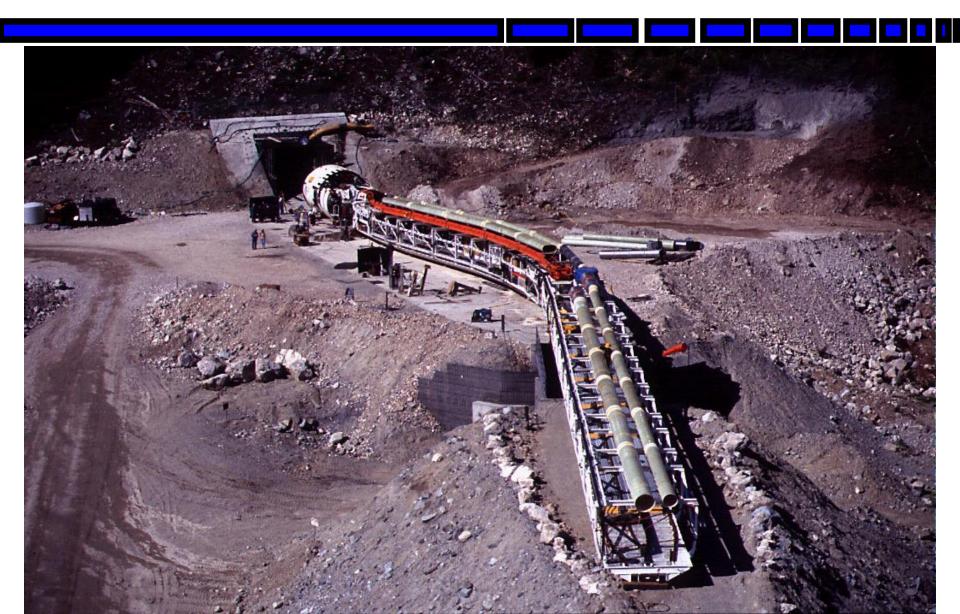


















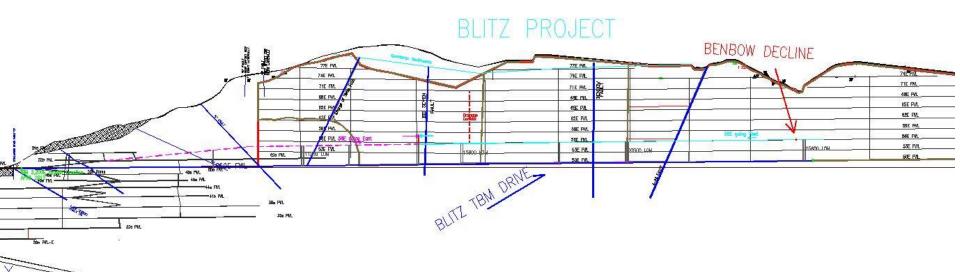






- Announced in 2010
- Develop 2 miles of the JM Reef East of the Stillwater Mine
- New Development- 5 year project
  - New substation, loci shop, and water system upgrades at the Stillwater Mine site to support Blitz Development
  - Benbow 6,000 foot Decline cross- cut access , 4 miles East of the Stillwater Mine
    - » Ventilation Access
  - 5000E TBM Drive -22,500 feet of Haulage tunnel-18'
  - 5600E conventional Drive connected to TBM tunnel below with raise bore rock passes and ventilation holes







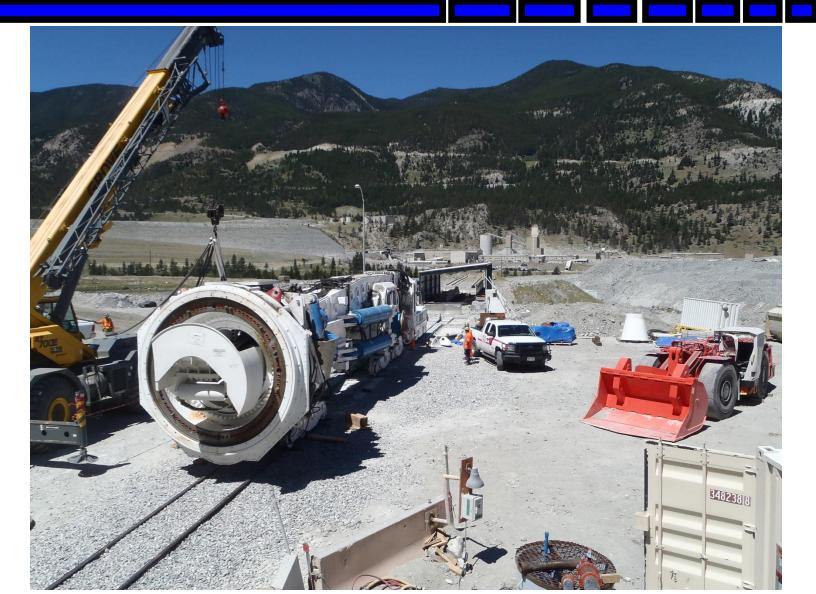


## Blitz Project-TBM Chamber



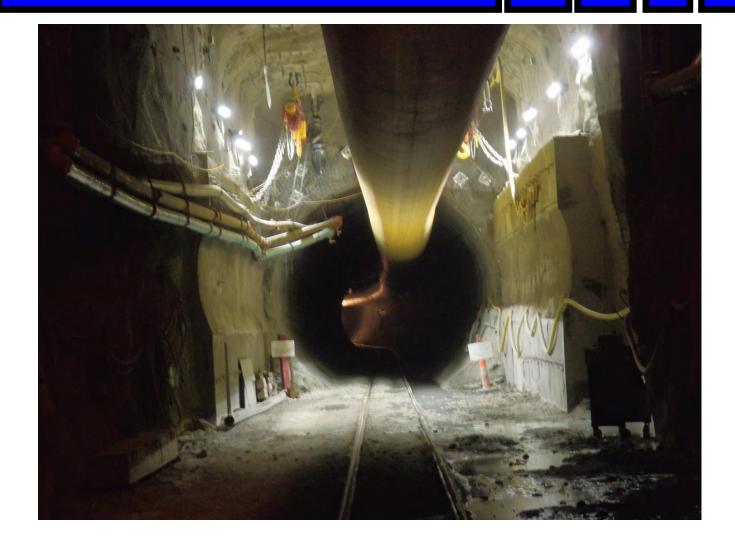


# Blitz Project-TBM Assembly









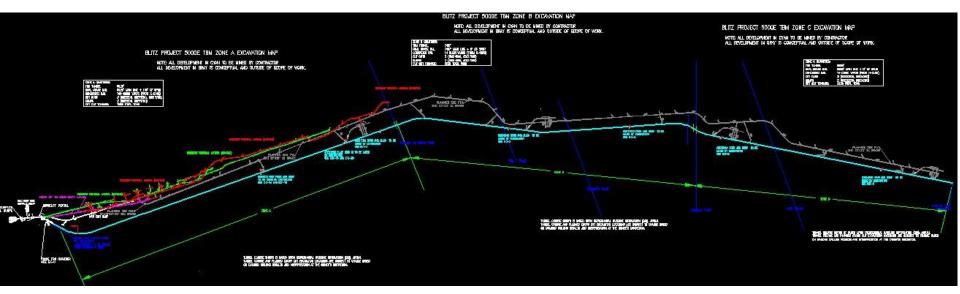


- 36 inch gauge rail installed on advance
- Rail haulage level ready when drive is complete
- Permanent Sumps Installed, 5,000 spacing, on advance
- Transformer cutouts on advance





# Blitz Project-TBM Route





### **Challenging Geology**

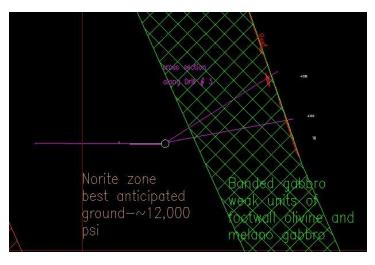
- TBM drive 400 ft south of Reef in competent Norite Three Right Lateral Offsetting Faults
  - Offsets expected up to 400 feet
  - Poor Ground Conditions, Be Prepared
- Diamond Drill on Advance
  - Establish Reef position information
  - Collect geotechnical information on ground ahead as well as information for 5600E conventional drive
  - Check for local ground water
  - Resource information



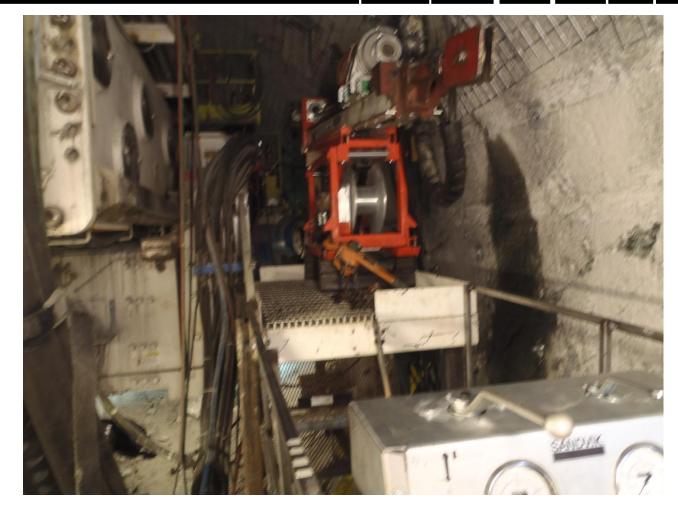
# Blitz Project-Diamond Drilling

#### **Diamond Drill every 500 ft of advance**

- 3 Drills on the Machine
  - » Drill 1 50 ft back from the face
  - » Drill 2 110 ft back from the face
  - » Drill 3 on the 8<sup>th</sup> trailing deck
- Drill 3600 ft every probe stop
- Drill through Casing/ Valves to handle Water
- Have 7 days to complete each program





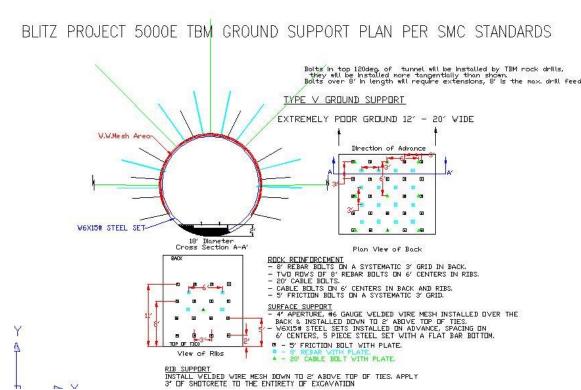




## **Blitz Project-Ground Support**

#### **Methodical Ground Support Plan**

- 5 different ground support types
- Based upon on SMC History



#### **Fault Ground Support**

- 20 ft cable bolts
- Fiber Shotcrete
- Grout ring for water
- W6 x15# steel sets on

6 ft spacing

-McNalley Support System

# Graham Creek Project

- 6,000 feet of FWL drive west of the East Boulder Mine
- Accesses Graham Creek Ventilation raise, alimak raise to surface, intake capacity
- Could to drilled proven reserve
- Crews then go to man the Blitz Project at the Stillwater Mine



