

Formal Objection to the Guadalupe Cave Resource Protection Area Mineral Withdrawal

1) Objector's Name, Phone, and Address:

Robert Cline



2) Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Cline".

3) N/A.

4) Proposed Project:

Continue manual digging that was conducted in 2021.

Manual hand tools only (no heavy equipment).

Mining Claim: NM105221824

Location: T26S, R21E, Section 1 within Lincoln National Forest, Eddy County, New Mexico

- 5) My mining claims are for a mine that has been in my family since my great grandfather Joel Weldy founded it in 1928. Joel's records at the BLM date back to 1932. Four generations of my family including myself have worked this mine. Iron was being mined from this mine and sold by the truck load. This activity met the yearly requirements needed to maintain a mining claim back when the rules required proof of such mineral extraction. This is not a new mine and therefore, the proposed withdrawal violates our rights.

Suggestions to resolve objection: My two mining claims are North of 201 and are not within the Wilderness Study Area. Both claims are near the northern boundary of the withdrawn area. My claims exist within T25S R21E Section 36 and T26S R21E Section 1. The northern border of the withdrawn area runs diagonally in a SouthWest direction then juts out just enough to include my claims. I suggest the border of the withdrawn area be adjusted slightly to exclude my claims.

- 6) I worked this mine several times in 2021 at every opportunity I was granted. I've followed all procedures and provided notices of intent to dig multiple times as well as a plan of operations making it clear my intentions to continue to work the mine. I've submitted comments on the withdrawal multiple times including this year when my comments were sent to 'comments-southwestern-lincoln-guadalupe@usda.gov' and Jennifer Thomas with the same objections I've outlined here.

This is a very challenging situation for me because the reasons why this mine is so important are confidential. I have written a 94-page book about this mine that contains four generations of family secrets and describes what the mine is and what it contains. This is information not known to the public, the Forest Service, or anyone outside of my family. I would be willing to discuss more of these details in private with whoever is making decisions on this.