

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/23/2016 11:00:00 AM

First name: Brandon

Last name: Alford

Organization: Layne Christensen Company

Title:

Comments: Dear District Ranger Kinsey,

I am writing on behalf of Layne Christensen Company to express support for Arizona Minerals, Inc. ("AMI") and its proposed exploratory drilling project in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, in the Coronado National Forest. The project is a valuable enhancement to the local community and Arizona's economy.

AMI's exploratory drilling project allows AMI to assess the value of its mineral rights and contribute to Arizona's economy while protecting and preserving the local environment. AMI currently employs about 160 people (either directly or through contracting work), and the proposed exploratory drilling project will increase that work force by another 25-30 contracted workers. These jobs employ both skilled and unskilled laborers in the Tucson area, and the daily presence of a work force this size translates into significant local spending that is a tremendous boost to the economy in Santa Cruz County.

Layne Christensen Company is a contractor, contributing approximately thirty-eight skilled laborers to AMI work, and I can tell you that AMI is the type of company with which Layne Christensen Company strives to contract.

AMI has consistently shown its dedication to protectiJ)g the environment and maintaining worker safety for AMI employees and our employees. AMI's Operation and Maintenance Plan is designed to have the smallest possible impact on the environment by minimizing the number of drill pads and maximizing the use of previously disturbed areas. This project is an example of AMI's strong focus on environmental responsibility. AMI goes above and beyond the legal mandates, utilizing best practices to ensure projects have the least environmental impact possible and to ensure the safety of workers, contractors and the community. AMI does it right, and I am proud to be working for them.

In addition, AMI also is strongly committed to the local community in Santa Cruz County through active support of many local organizations. As a contractor on the project, Layne Christensen Company has seen AMI's dedicated support of the local businesses, which has a positive impact on the local community by increasing sales of hotels, restaurants, hospitality venues. AMI's contributions help make this work possible.

The Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project should be approved to allow Arizona Minerals, Inc. to assess the value of its mineral rights in an environmentally responsible way that brings economic benefits to the local community and the state of Arizona. Layne Christensen Company fully supports the Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project, and encourages you to approve the project as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,