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Last name: Byrd

Organization: Prescott Creeks Preservation Association

Title: Executive Director

Comments: On behalf of the Prescott Creeks Preservation Association (Prescott Creeks), I am pleased to submit comments supporting the proposed mineral withdrawal encompassing the upper Hassayampa River. Prescott Creeks is a not-for-profit organization established in 1990 with a mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education, and advocacy.

Please see the detailed comments in the attached letter jointly submitted by an informal coalition of ten (10) organizations. Comment in the letter is provided including background, ecological significance and wildlife, mining impacts and environmental consequences, and comments regarding the regulatory framework, along with a request for changes and corrections.

The proposed mineral withdrawal is consistent with the Prescott Creeks mission and Prescott Creeks is pleased to support the laudable proposal. We look forward to additional opportunities to provide input and ultimately to the implementation of the withdrawal.