

Date submitted (UTC-11): 10/11/2018 1:00:00 PM

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Comments:

Good morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. As you consider revising the rules governing hardrock mining on lands managed by the Forest Service, I would urge you to:

1. Require that all plans of operations for mines be updated regularly and take into account the most recent science, research, regulation, law, and policy. As an example, the plan of operations for Canyon uranium mine, which I pass the turnoff for regularly en route from my home in Flagstaff to the Grand Canyon, hasn't been updated since 1984. Given the advances in our understanding of the hydrogeology of this region over the last 30 years, it's concerning to me that this mine is permitted to continue to operate as if no time has passed.
 2. In cases when mining operators and companies break the law or violate Forest Service regulations, please consider increasing the fines and penalties these operators incur for their negligence and adopting more aggressive enforcement rules than those currently used by the BLM so that operators have an incentive to do the right thing.
 3. Please consider requiring plans of operations for all types of mining activities including exploration.
 4. Please consider requiring mine operators/mining companies operating on Forest Service lands to up their surety bonds periodically to keep pace with inflation and other increases in the actual cost of reclaiming a mining site once the mining is over. Please require periodic reviews of financial guarantees and make sure that operators are putting enough money in the bank to clean up the mess they make so that we as taxpayers don't get stuck holding the bag when they close shop.
 5. Finally -- and this is of particular concern to me given that I live near the area of the Northern Arizona Mineral Withdrawal -- please require validity exams for all mining operations, including those located in proposed withdrawal areas or existing withdrawal areas, whether or not the operations were previously approved.
- Thank you for your time and attention.