

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/12/2025 11:29:57 PM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Rusing

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to show my support for the Hassayampa River and Riparian Area Mineral Withdrawal request.

My family moved to the Prescott area from Alaska in 1961 and my wife and I returned here in 1986 to set up a General Surgery practice and raise our 3 sons.

We have spent time in this beautiful natural area hiking, swimming and camping along the Hassayampa River and its tributaries. This area benefits residents as well as visitors. The Hassayampa River area is home many species of vegetation and wildlife some of which are endangered. This area has been a target of gold mining past and present. Some of their techniques are devastating to the landscape and its inhabitants as well as contaminating the ground and water. Chemicals and heavy metals used in the mining contaminate the area and many times it is left to the taxpayers to clean up. Heavy mining in the past leave minimal remaining commercially viable deposits. In addition the proposed area for withdrawal represents less than 1% of the Prescott National Forest. Some of these claims are owned by entities outside the USA including China

We need your support along with the BLM and the Prescott National Forest to protect this valuable local natural resource.

Thank you

Tom Rusing

The Prescott National Forest