

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/13/2025 3:19:25 AM

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Comments: We live in Prescott and have for many many years. The upper reaches of the Hassayampa watershed surely deserve to be protected and withdrawn from further mineral claims. With so few intact riparian habits in such an arid landscape, we need to preserve what we have remaining.

There are a host of recreational uses of this riparian area that are significant for the public. Many of these are not readily compatible with placer mining operations. Even recreational gold mining can have significant impacts to the stream bed, water quality, aquatic habitat, and stream bank environment. These attributes and values need to remain intact for the sake of natures needs.

I hope you'll consider the full breadth of factors to be influenced by mineral development vs the preservation of the watershed. It's time to vote for what we have left of nature.