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Organization: City of Prescott, Prescott, AZ

Title: Councilmember

Comments: The purpose of this letter is to voice my wholehearted support for Hassayampa River Mineral Withdrawal. I have been a resident of AZ since 1965, and of Prescott since 1986.

Prescott is the economic driver for Yavapai County, the 4th largest County in the State. Eco Tourism, Recreation and numerous outdoor activities in the Prescott Nat'l Forest make up the majority of our tax base. Preservation of our natural beauty is very important to the local resident's quality of life. The Withdrawal is located only 4 miles away, literally in our backyard. It is critical that this 3,739 acres of pristine riparian forest be preserved for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Ironically, bordering the South end of the Withdrawal area, is the Chinese owned Gold Paradise Peak Mine. This massive claim is planned to be a strip mine, something that has never been done in the Bradshaws. They have already caused pollution to the Hassayampa River watershed with toxic chemicals and silt. They have been operating without permits, and in 2018, ADEQ has discovered that they failed to contain contaminated wastewater. Kris Mayes, the AZ Attorney General, has filed numerous lawsuits, including a Cease and Desist Order for violations of State and Federal clean water laws. They have been fined over \$6 million. These numerous violations are in the EPA's database. This is, unfortunately, a very real example of what could be the future of the Withdrawal Area, if action is not taken.

Please expedite our request. We need to prevent more "bad actors" from filing more claims in the Hassayampa River Corridor. Prescott is downstream from this watershed and we depend on the Bradshaws watershed for recharge of our aquifer. We don't need to be downstream from a Super Fund clean up site.

Thank You,
Councilmember Cathey Rusing