

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/14/2025 2:45:11 AM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Twombly

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a 27 year resident of Prescott, AZ and have raised both my children in this area. I am submitting my comment in support for the proposed mineral withdrawal on the upper Hassayampa watershed.

From the time my children were born we have taken them out into that area, first to "Wolf Creek" falls when they were babies and later on more strenuous walks to more remote locations in the upper watershed. They learned early to identify plants and animals in that bioregion, to cherish them, and to become connected to Prescott and the Hassayampa as a place they call "home." We have also taken them on many excursions on the lower sections of the Hassayampa, below Copper Creek, where the impacts of both past and present mining are visually evident. Hiking in both the upper and lower reaches has allowed us to bear witness to the effects that mining has had on habitat loss when areas are altered through excavation and suctioning and monsoon rains follow, further stripping the original landscape of its integrity and destroying the living spaces on which organisms depend.

Rather than listing all the resident species which would be potentially impacted by mining if it were to occur in the upper reaches (species with which you are likely already familiar), I simply want to implore you to protect this place that so many of us call "home." Please withdraw this section of the upper Hassayampa from those aspects of mining that would negatively impact those organisms that depend on it for their livelihood.

Thank you for your professional investment and consideration