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Comments: I am writing in strong support of the Hassayampa mineral withdrawal. I have lived in Ponderosa Park for 22 years. I moved into this neighborhood because of its location in the Hassayampa River Riparian Corridor. My family and I have enjoyed this forest daily for all these years, hiking, biking, hunting and swimming the exact area inside the proposed mineral withdrawal. The diversity of the species of plants and animals is amazing and I feel so fortunate to be able to commune with them all. It would be a tragedy of profound proportion to allow modern suction dredging in this rich habitat. This forest is still recovering from the extensive mining of the distant past. The redistribution of heavy metals (including methyl mercury) from past mining practices in the water from the allowable dredging is very concerning as it will poison the existing fish, amphibians, plants and all the animals that eat them. In addition, the mechanical destruction from equipment would create profound harm to the environment for many generations to come. The proposed withdrawal of 3,739 acres of most precious natural resource only represents 1/3 of 1% of Prescott National Forest. This small portion of land contains a major source of water for all wildlife for many miles around it and downstream. The Hassayampa River area is a staple weekend camping getaway for people in Yavapai County. Destroying this area would damage the wildlife draw of the entire county. Very simply put Arizona is a big desert and to protect the whole we must focus our protection on its few waterways. I respectfully ask for your granting this withdrawal.

Thank you for your heartfelt consideration on this impactful decision.