

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona Strip District Office
St. George, Utah
February 2011

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Type of Action: (X) Draft () Final

Cooperating Agencies: U.S. Forest Service; Kaibab National Forest
National Park Service; Grand Canyon National Park
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Geological Survey
Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources
Arizona State Land Department
Hualapai Tribe
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
Coconino County, Arizona
Mohave County, Arizona
Kane County, Utah
San Juan County, Utah
Washington County, Utah

Responsible Official: The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior

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Abstract

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents the analysis of potential environmental impacts of the Secretary of the Interior's proposed 20-year withdrawal of approximately 1,010,776 acres of federal mineral estate in northern Arizona from the location and entry of new mining claims under the General Mining Law of 1872 [30 United States Code 22-54]. This federal mineral estate includes approximately 626,354 of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona Strip Field Office, 360,349 acres of National Forest System lands managed by the Kaibab National Forest, 4,284 acres administered by the Arizona State Land Department, and 19,789 acres of private land. The Notice of Intent to prepare this EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on August 26, 2009.

This Draft EIS describes the physical, biological, cultural, historic, tribal, and socioeconomic resources in and around the proposed withdrawal parcels. The Draft EIS considers the impacts of four alternatives,

including changing the configuration and acreage of the withdrawals and not implementing the withdrawal at the close of the current 2-year segregation (the “No Action” Alternative). The focus for the impact analysis was based on resource issues and concerns identified during public scoping conducted for the proposed withdrawal and by BLM and other agency land managers and resource specialists. Recent concerns related to uranium exploration and development include impacts on surface and groundwater, cultural resources, air quality, wildlife, vegetation, recreation, wilderness areas, public health and safety, visual resources, and soundscapes. Other resource area concerns identified by the interdisciplinary team include tribal resources; social resources and economics; greenhouse gas emissions, ozone, and climate change; and cumulative impacts related to current uranium mining operations and other proposed development within and in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon watershed.