



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arizona Strip District Office  
345 East Riverside Drive  
St. George, UT 84790-6714

In reply refer to:  
2300 (AZ9100)  
AZA-035138

February 2011

Dear Reader:

Attached for your review and comment is the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona Strip District Office. The BLM prepared this document in collaboration with 15 federal, state, local, and tribal cooperators in an effort to provide an objective analysis of the Proposed Action and Alternatives based on the best available science. This DEIS has been prepared on behalf of the Secretary of Interior to inform his decision whether or not to withdraw lands in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon from the Mining Law of 1872. This DEIS was developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, implementing regulations, the BLM's NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1), and other applicable laws and policy.

This DEIS has been prepared in response to the Secretary of the Interior's proposed 20-year withdrawal of approximately 1 million acres of federal mineral estate in northern Arizona from the location of new mining claims under the General Mining Law of 1872 [30 United States Code 22-54]. The planning area consists of approximately 1,010,776 acres of federal mineral estate, which includes about 626,354 acres of public lands managed by the 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. As of July 2009, these lands were segregated for up to 2 years from location and entry of new mining claims while the proposed withdrawal is being evaluated. Supporting information for this EIS is available on the project web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/mining/timeout.html>.

The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the DEIS. We are particularly interested in feedback concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the proposed alternatives, the analysis of their respective management actions, and any new resource information that would help the BLM as it analyzes and evaluates the proposed withdrawal. In developing the final EIS, which is the next phase of the NEPA process, the Secretary may identify a preferred alternative that is a combination or minor variation of the management actions analyzed in the alternatives in the DEIS for the purposes of creating a strategy that best meets the needs of the resources and values in this area under the BLM multiple-use, sustained-yield mandate (the Forest Service is governed by identical principles under the National Forest Management Act of 1976). As a member of the public, your timely comments on the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal DEIS will help formulate the Final EIS. Comments will be accepted for forty-five (45) calendar days following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's publication of its Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The BLM can best use your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Comments may be submitted electronically to: [azasminerals@blm.gov](mailto:azasminerals@blm.gov). Comments may also be submitted by mail to: Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Project, ATTN: Scott Florence, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management Arizona Strip District Office, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, UT

84790-6714. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format.

Your review and comments on the content of this document are critical to the success of this NEPA process. If you wish to submit comments on the DEIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, additional sources, or alternate methodologies, and if they reference a section or page number.

In order to be considered and to merit a written response, comments must be in writing (paper or electronic format), substantive, and timely. Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the DEIS.
- question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis.
- present valid new information relevant to the analysis.
- present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the DEIS.
- cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.

Comments that are not substantive generally contain only opinion or preferences, but will be considered and included as part of the decision-making process. They will not, however, receive a formal response from the BLM. Comments that are not considered substantive include the following:

- comments in favor of or against the Proposed Action or alternatives that do not include reasoning that meets the criteria listed above.
- comments that only agree or disagree with BLM policy or resource decisions and that do not include justification or supporting data that meet the criteria listed above.
- comments that do not pertain to the project area or the project.
- comments that take the form of vague, open-ended questions.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments will be announced by local media, website, and/or public mailings at least 15 days in advance. Public meetings are currently scheduled to be held the week of November 29–December 3, 2010, in Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Fredonia, Arizona, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Copies of the DEIS have been sent to affected federal, state, and local government agencies and American Indian tribes, many of whom have been involved either as cooperating or consulting agencies. Copies of the DEIS are available for public inspection at the BLM Arizona Strip District Office at the above address, as well as at the following BLM and Forest Service offices:

BLM Arizona State Office, One N. Central Ave., Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004

BLM Phoenix District Office, 21605 N. 7th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85027

BLM Utah State Office, 440 W. 200 S. Suite 500, Salt Lake City, UT 84145

USFS Tonto National Forest, 2324 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85006

USFS Kaibab National Forest, 800 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Williams, AZ 86046

USFS Kaibab National Forest, 430 S. Main St., Fredonia, AZ 86022

USFS Coconino National Forest, 1824 S. Thompson St., Flagstaff, AZ 86001

In addition, the DEIS can be viewed at libraries in the following locations:

Williams Public Library, 113 1st St., Williams, AZ 86046

Fredonia Public Library, 118 N Main St, Fredonia, AZ 86022

You may also access the document on the Internet at:

<http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/mining/timeout.html>

Thank you for your continued interest in the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal. We appreciate the information and suggestions you contribute to the EIS process. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the EIS process, please contact: Chris Horyza, Project Manager, telephone 602-417-9446; Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004; email [chris\\_horyza@blm.gov](mailto:chris_horyza@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. Florence". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Scott R. Florence, Arizona Strip District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management