

**Kimberly MacMillan**

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From: **Clay Bundy** <[claybundy@hotmail.com](mailto:claybundy@hotmail.com)>

Date: Mon, May 2, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Subject: Mining Letter

To: [nazproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org](mailto:nazproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org)

Please see attachment

Thank you

Clay Bundy

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# Friends of the Arizona Strip

Clay Bundy, President  
1540 South River Road  
St. George, Utah 84790

May 1, 2011

Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Project  
ATTN: Scott Florence, District Manager  
345 East Riverside Drive  
St. George, Utah 84790-6714

Via E-Mail to: [NAZproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org](mailto:NAZproposedwithdrawal@azblm.org)

Subject: Proposed Public Lands Withdrawal in Northern Arizona

On behalf of the Friends of the Arizona Strip, I would like to voice our organization's unconditional and enthusiastic support for Alternative A - No Action (No Withdrawal) of the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Study.

The Friends of the Arizona Strip is a non-profit, landowner/ranching anchored organization working to preserve and maintain the traditional and historical multiple uses of the Arizona Strip including ranching, grazing, mining, lumbering, hunting and other recreational pursuits. Many of our members have lived and worked here for generations.

Mining--particularly uranium mining--has been a welcome and integral part of the Arizona Strip for decades and area ranchers have supported the positive presence of the mining companies. Because they are our neighbors, we have all had numerous firsthand, up-close and personal experiences with the mining companies working on the Arizona Strip and they have proven time and again to be both good neighbors and good stewards of the land.

In the mid-1980s, Arizona Strip ranchers forcefully demonstrated their support for multiple land use, including uranium exploration and mining, by joining a coalition of local businesses and civic groups, timber companies, environmental groups, governmental entities and mining companies, which ultimately, through negotiation, give and take and positive attitude resulted in Congressional passage of the 1984 Arizona Strip Wilderness Act which both created new wilderness areas and released other areas to multiple use, including uranium mining.

Back then, we thought that all questions of wilderness and conservation on the Arizona Strip had finally been decided and agreed to "once and for all," thereby ending years of controversy, debate and conflict together with uncertainty and constant reevaluation. We thought that the groundbreaking Arizona Strip Wilderness Act summarized a consensus of opinion from the widest possible range of constituents—including opposing ends of the political spectrum and diverse environmental groups. We thought that Congress had finally clearly and definitively defined the disposition of all public lands on the Arizona Strip.

We find it both disturbing and unsettling that this Draft Environmental Impact Study makes **absolutely no mention** whatsoever of the 1984 Arizona Strip Wilderness Act and that at least two of the environmental groups who were a party to the agreements made back then have reneged on the promises they made. I don't know what this kind of behavior is called in Washington, D.C. but those of us out here on the Arizona Strip have a lot of names for it, none of them flattering.

We believe that the Arizona Strip can and should be utilized in the multiple ways it historically and traditionally always has been. Yes, the Arizona Strip contains specific areas and sites which should be protected and preserved for future generations. However, we believe that such protection should enable and manage, rather than prevent and prohibit.

The Arizona Strip is the property of all the people and all the people should be able to use it.

Sincerely,

Clay Bundy  
President  
Friends of the Arizona Strip