



# Copper Flat Copper Mine Draft Environmental Impact Statement

## BLM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Please return this form by **MARCH 4, 2016**. Additional sheets may be attached if more space is needed. Fold the form so the BLM address is showing and tape or staple the edges together to mail it. No postage is required.

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Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Add to Mailing List  YES  NO

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, are available for public inspection in their entirety.

ATTACHED IS MY COMMENT FORM. BOTH MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE EXTENSIVELY REVIEWED THE COPPER FLAT COPPER MINE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, AND HAVE FOUND IT TO BE CONCERNING AND INCOMPLETE, IN MANY AREAS.

PLEASE GIVE THIS MORE STUDY AND MORE CONSIDERATION BEFORE MAKING A FINAL AND FATAL DECISION. WE WILL RELY ON YOU.

OUR WATER IS TOO PRECIOUS TO WASTE!

S.D.F.

We reside in the canyon of Animas Creek, about one mile north-northeast of the 4 large production wells PW- 1 thru PW-4 in Sections 30 and 31, T15S, R5W, which are to supply the water for the NMCC Copper Flat mining project. Animas Creek flows through our property, about 400 feet south of our house. We are on a well, which is our only source of potable water.

This is to express our utmost concern about the magnitude of the volume of water to be pumped from the Palomas Basin Aquifer for the duration of the mining at the proposed NMCC copper mine. For a two month period in the spring runoff period of 1982, a volume of 6400 gallons of water per minute was pumped, but that hardly provides sufficient data from which to predict what catastrophic effects might result from almost two decades of pumping at that rate. In the PRELIMINARY FINAL Environmental Impact Statement, Copper Flat Project, dated March, 1999, page 4-12, last paragraph, it is stated " Private wells in the Palomas Basin may experience a drawdown of 2 to 10 feet during groundwater withdrawal." Note that all of this is for a 10 year period of pumping, not seventeen.

Also, page 4-12 and page 4-16, same paragraph "Alta is committed to monitoring private wells before, during, and after mining and would offset any impact to private wells by deepening existing wells or providing new wells." These statements acknowledge the potential impact on Animas Creek wells. Further, a drawdown of over 10 feet in the alluvial aquifer of Animas Creek could dry up the surface flow of the creek. The flow of Animas Creek, already depleted by more than a decade of drought, could be further depleted by the pumping of such an extravagant volume of water for a period of years. Only after it is too late may the actual affect on Animas Creek may be known.

We are concerned not just about the effect on our well. The majestic Arizona Sycamore Trees growing naturally in the riparian areas along Animas Creek could be imperiled. Of the entire 2000 mile length of the Rio Grande River, Animas Creek is its only tributary where the Sycamore Trees occur. **It is the only tributary where the Sycamore Trees can be found growing naturally.** How and when the trees took root on the Animas and nowhere else east of the mountains is a mystery. They may very well have witnessed the first Spanish Expedition up the Camino Real. Annihilation of this historic, magnificent tree to satisfy the water needs of a mine of seventeen years duration would be an environmental tragedy.

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