



Position Statement on Uranium Mining in Northern Arizona
June 2007

The Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) supports reformation of the Mining Act of 1872, the prohibition of or severe limitation of mining/mineral exploration in critical wildlife habitat areas, and continuing the protection of the North Kaibab Game Preserve. The AWF also supports the permanent withdrawal from mining, mineral exploration and mineral entry for all Federal lands adjacent to the Grand Canyon National Park, within Coconino County.

Arizona is known throughout the world as The Grand Canyon State. The lands adjacent to the Grand Canyon provide important habitats for a wide diversity of wildlife, native plants, and important riparian areas. The lands are also home to numerous indigenous cultures, which have coexisted for centuries with the important and unique natural resources of the Grand Canyon area. Recently thousands of mining claims have been filed in this unique and fragile environment. The planned exploration activities and potential mining development in these areas threaten the unique species and the residents of these areas. Over the past 40 years similar mining activities have left indelible scars on the landscape and to the health of many of the residents. The lack of any major reform to the Mining Act of 1872 heightens the risk to all species dependent on these lands and waters. The features that affect carrying capacity of any lands for many of these various species are dramatically similar- food, water, shelter and space. Any activity that alters, threatens, or limits any of these features should be viewed with intense scrutiny and great caution.

Our concern regarding the claims and planned activities in this area prompts us to support the immediate withdrawal and protection in perpetuity of these important lands from any similar development interests.