

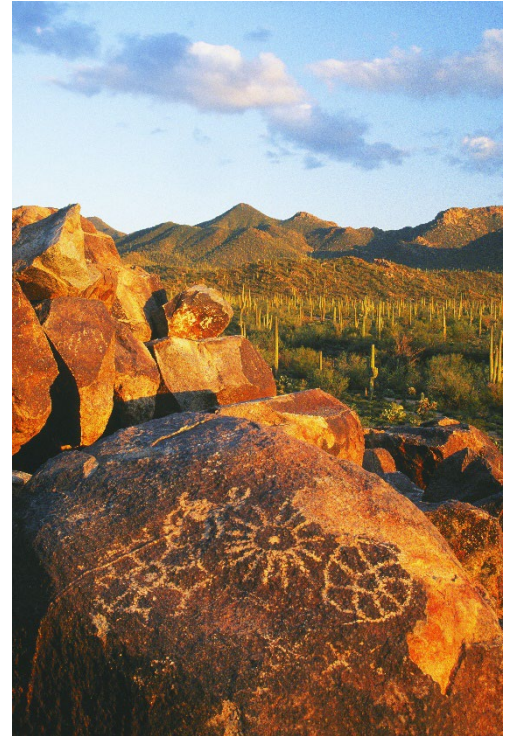


# Protecting National Parks from Mining Threats – Arizona

## Mining on Public Lands and National Parks in Arizona

Celebrated for their scenic beauty, abundant wildlife and cultural resources, Arizona's national parks—from Grand Canyon to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument—are places to be protected and stewarded for future generations to experience. This is why national parks and newly designated conservation areas, such as Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni National Monument, prohibit *new* mining claims within their boundaries. Yet, there are nearly **900 places** where mining activities remain possible within the boundaries of a national park or monument in Arizona.

Unlike every other public land use, the specific location of mining claims is largely left up to the claim holder's choice. This drastically limits the ability of Arizona's public land managers, like the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service, to protect high value conservation areas. **It is also why 60-percent of mining claims in Arizona (nearly 33,000 total claims) are located within 30 miles of national parks and monuments in Arizona.**



While a mine claim does not guarantee an active mine will develop, it is an exceedingly easy first step; a mine claim has a nominal annual fee and few restrictions considering potential harm to surrounding landscapes or communities. As a result, the claim system directly threatens clean air and water, wildlife habitat, connectivity and cultural resources conserved by parks and monuments. In 2023, **10.8 million** people visited Arizona's national park sites, contributing **\$2 billion** in economic benefit to the state. Meanwhile, mine claim holders paid less than \$10 per acre to possess public lands with a mine claim. Commonsense changes to mining laws are essential to protect Arizona's national parks, monuments and local economies.

## IMPROVING THE CLAIM SYSTEM TO PROTECT PARKS

National parks are places that bring us together even in divided times. Poll after poll shows Americans overwhelmingly support protecting national parks on both sides of the political aisle, united behind clean air, clean water, and healthy wildlife. NPCA is committed to securing bipartisan victories for the parks with commonsense mining law reform and mobilizing park supporters to protect these cherished landscapes. Now, more than ever, our parks need your help.

**For more information:**

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## SPOTLIGHT

### Grand Canyon National Park & Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni National Monument

Directly adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park and inside the boundaries of Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni National Monument, the Pinyon Plain Uranium Mine threatens to negatively impair groundwater resources used by the Havasupai Tribe and the source of many springs found inside the Grand Canyon.

## ARIZONA'S MINING CLAIMS BY THE NUMBERS

ARIZONA'S MINING CLAIMS BY THE NUMBERS	
CLAIMS LOCATED ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS	492,178
CLAIMS ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS IN ARIZONA	56,130
CLAIMS WITHIN 30 MILES OF ARIZONA'S NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS	32,865
CLAIMS INSIDE ARIZONA'S NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS	888