



# Protecting National Parks from Mining Threats – Nevada

## Mining on Public Lands and National Parks in Nevada

Celebrated for their scenic beauty, abundant wildlife and cultural resources, Nevada's national parks—from Great Basin to Lake Mead National Recreation Area—are places to be protected and stewarded for future generations to experience. This is why national parks and newly designated conservation areas, such as Avi Kwa Ame National Monument, prohibit *new* mining claims within their boundaries. Yet, there are still nearly **300 places** where mining activities remain possible inside of a national park or monument in Nevada.



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 Nevada'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 there are over **25,000 mining claims within 30 miles of national parks and monuments in Nevada**.

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, **4.5 million** people visited Nevada's national park sites, contributing **\$302 million** 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 the mining laws are essential to protect Nevada'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

### Death Valley National Park

Along the western stretches of Death Valley National Park in southwestern Nevada, and immediately outside the boundaries of the park, is the proposed North Bullfrog Mine - a sprawling 6,000-acre gold mine that could harm the wilderness character of the park and groundwater resources. Despite the incredible conservation values this landscape provides, areas right up to park boundaries remain available for future claims.

#### NEVADA'S MINING CLAIMS BY THE NUMBERS

NEVADA'S MINING CLAIMS BY THE NUMBERS	
CLAIMS LOCATED ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS	492,178
CLAIMS ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS IN NEVADA	252,040
CLAIMS WITHIN 30 MILES OF NEVADA'S NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS	25,850
CLAIMS INSIDE NEVADA'S NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS	299