



## Fall Report

# Grand Canyon gets short reprieve

## Toxic mining remains a serious threat to park

In June, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that he would support a ban on toxic uranium mining around the Grand Canyon—a victory our staff and activists have fought for months to win. But no sooner had the secretary made his announcement than Congress moved to block him.

### 1,100 mining claims next to the canyon

Mining companies have staked roughly 1,100 uranium mining claims within just five miles of Grand Canyon National Park, posing a serious threat to the park itself and the 25 million people who drink water from the Colorado River. In July, we released “Grand Canyon at Risk,” a report highlighting the harm that’s already been caused by uranium mining in the Southwest.

### More than 300,000 urge mining ban

In June, Environment Arizona and our allies delivered more than 300,000 public comments to the Interior Department, urging Secretary Salazar to protect the Grand Canyon from new mining claims.

On June 20, after an intense lobbying effort by Margie Alt, executive director of our national federation, and our allies, Secretary Salazar announced that he would move to withdraw 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon from new mining claims for up to 20 years.

### Congress tries to block protections

The secretary’s announcement is a huge victory, but there is still work to be done.



AP Photo/US Department of the Interior

▲ In June, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar extended the moratorium on new toxic mining claims near the Grand Canyon for six months.

In July, the House appropriations committee passed a bill that would undermine the secretary’s decision and allow more mining near the Grand Canyon. We helped rally thousands of members to oppose this brazen assault on a national landmark, and we’ll keep fighting to make

sure Congress doesn’t block Secretary Salazar from doing his job. The mining industry and their allies in Congress won’t give up—but neither will we. With help from our members and allies, we’re making sure Congress knows that the Grand Canyon is too important to risk.



USGS, Don Bills

## more online

*Some places are too important to risk.*

*You can learn more about our work to protect the Grand Canyon and how you can help at:*

[www.EnvironmentArizona.org](http://www.EnvironmentArizona.org)

◀ *The Kanab Creek uranium mine sits on the Grand Canyon’s North Rim*



## To our members

It's shaping up to be a busy fall as we work to save our state parks, protect our drinking water from pollution, and push our state toward a clean energy future. But every so often, I'll sneak away to Camelback or South Mountain for a few hours to enjoy one of the best things about living in Arizona: the amazing natural heritage that is our birthright.

In the past few months, my staff and I have spoken with more than 15,000 Arizonans about the need to keep our parks open and in public hands. Earlier in the summer, I testified in defense of Arizona's Clean Cars Program—the one that makes us a national leader on fuel efficiency.

I'm so grateful to be able to do this work on your behalf, and to see the very real results of our efforts. As you flip through this newsletter, I hope you'll feel as proud as I do of the progress we've made—and as inspired as I am to face the many challenges that await us.

Thanks for being with us,

Bret Fanshaw  
Environment Arizona Advocate

## Recent action

### New standards will cut mercury, save lives

The Environmental Protection Agency is taking important steps to cut toxic air pollution from the Apache power plant in Cochise and other plants nationwide.

In March, the EPA proposed new rules to cut mercury emissions by 91 percent—a huge victory, given mercury's toxic effects on how kids think, learn and behave.

Polluters and their allies in the Senate fought back with proposals to block the EPA, but staff and activists from our national federation were able to help defeat those measures—thanks in part to the activism of Environment Arizona members. In July, our national federation delivered more than 800,000 public comments to the EPA in favor of the mercury rule—a show of the strong support that will be vital as the EPA fights back against attempts by Congress to block clean air rules.

### Environment Arizona testifies for clean cars

Cars built in Arizona this year will meet some of the most advanced fuel-efficiency and emissions standards in the nation—unless Gov. Jan Brewer succeeds in repealing the Clean Cars Program, passed in 2008. Environment Arizona Advocate Bret Fanshaw testified in defense of the program at an Arizona Department of Environmental Quality hearing in June.

“Through the Clean Cars program, the state of Arizona ensures that the cleanest vehicles that meet the highest possible emissions standards are available for all Arizona drivers,” Fanshaw said. “This summer alone, the emission standard mandated by the Clean Cars program would reduce global warming emissions by more than 3 million metric tons and save Arizona's economy more than \$1.3 billion, or more than \$470 per Arizona household.”



## How do you want to be remembered?

You can be remembered as someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to Environment Arizona.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or e-mail [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentArizona.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentArizona.org).



The White House, NREL

▲ Nathan Willcox, Environment Arizona's federal global warming program director, thanks President Obama for his leadership on fuel-efficiency standards.





Tim Roberts Photography\*

# Arizona's drinking water at risk

## Polluters try to gut Clean Water Act

As polluting industries push to weaken legal safeguards for Arizona's drinking water, and some members of Congress move to block the EPA from doing its job, we're delivering a firm response: Don't mess with Arizona's water.

## EPA moves to close loopholes

The Clean Water Act has been extremely successful in limiting pollution across the country. But legal loopholes could allow polluters to dump toxic waste into Arizona's streams, putting the drinking water of more than 800,000 Arizonans at risk. Now, Congress has attempted to revoke the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to step in and help Arizona's leaders protect our waters.

For the past several years, Environment Arizona and our federation of state environmental groups have been working to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act and restore the law's ability to protect our waters. This year, the EPA responded. In April, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced a plan to close the loopholes that are allowing polluters to dump into the streams that provide drinking water for more than 800,000 Arizonans.

## "Legal warfare"

When the EPA announced its intention to stand up for Arizona's drinking water, polluting industries sprang into action. Mining companies, developers and corporate agribusiness have all urged their friends in Congress to stop the EPA from closing the clean water loophole—ExxonMobil lobbyists even met with the president to convince him to drop the issue, threatening "legal warfare" if the EPA moved forward.

Over the summer, polluters' allies in both parties launched an unprecedented attack on the Clean Water Act in Congress. By mid-July, the House of Representatives had passed three separate measures attacking the EPA's authority to protect our water.

We saw this coming, and had already begun building a campaign to defend the EPA's clean water initiatives. Here in Arizona, we reached thousands of people about the need to stand strong for clean water, and more than 500 Environment Arizona members emailed Sens. Jon Kyl and John McCain, urging them to vote against any measures that would threaten our drinking water.

All over the country, from the streets of Chicago and Boston to the suburbs of Denver and Austin, field organizers in our national network talked face to face with tens of thousands of Americans about the attacks on clean water. Citizens wrote to their local newspapers, and more than 10,000 sent comments to the EPA urging Administrator Jackson to stand strong for clean water.

Here in Arizona, our drinking water is a precious resource—we're working to make sure Congress doesn't cause us to waste a single drop to pollution.



## Show your support

You can stand up for our drinking water by posting this badge on your Facebook page (see our online action center). Together, we'll build a public outcry too big for Congress to ignore.



fotocunter\*

## How Arizona can plug into clean energy

*Efficiency is the cheapest and cleanest way to cut our fossil fuel use and pollution. It seems intuitive enough: Use less energy. Save fuel, and save money.*

*But with the numerous federal, state and local organizations and agencies ready to help you retrofit your home or business, offering rebates, discounts, financing and other kinds of incentives, it can be tough to figure out where to start.*

*Environment Arizona's Research & Policy Center designed our "Plugging Into Clean Energy" guide to help you cut through the clutter and pick what works for you, so you can get on the path toward a more efficient home or business, one step at a time.*

*Here are five low-cost to no-cost things you can do right now to cut your energy use.*

- 1. Replace old-fashioned light bulbs with CFLs to cut your lighting costs by up to 75 percent.*
- 2. Wash your laundry using cold water only.*
- 3. Plug appliances into power strips, and turn them off when not in use.*
- 4. Put aluminum foil behind radiators to reflect heat back into the room.*
- 5. Scrape—rather than rinsing—dishes, and only run the dishwasher when you have a full load.*



For the full list of tips, visit [www.EnvironmentArizona.org/center/plug-into-clean-energy](http://www.EnvironmentArizona.org/center/plug-into-clean-energy)

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## Fall Report

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## Environment Arizona

### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Arizona. We focus exclusively on protecting Arizona's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

## Arizonans stand up for state parks

Environment Arizona outreach staff spoke with more than 15,000 people this summer about the need to keep our parks open and in public hands. More than 1,500 signed postcards urging Gov. Jan Brewer to preserve our natural heritage.

McFarland State Historic Park, Homolovi Ruins and Lyman Lake have been saved—at least for now. And in July, the state privatization and efficiency committee backed off its earlier proposal to lease our state parks out to private companies. Yet privatization of our parks is by no means off the table. Worse, Oracle remains closed, with Picacho Peak, Red Rock and others on the chopping block.

We're building a broad base of support for the notion that we should all be able to enjoy our state parks—and that revenue from public lands should go to the public, not to private owners.



flickr user: squeak2569

### ◀ Picacho Peak State Park

*Despite a public outcry, Gov. Brewer is still threatening to close or privatize up to a third of our state parks.*



Visit [www.EnvironmentArizona.org](http://www.EnvironmentArizona.org) to learn more about our campaign to save our parks, and to see how you can help.