



**Rep. Pombo's Recommendations for Budget Reconciliation:
A Massive Corporate Give-Away and National Park Fire Sale**

Giving Away the West:

Pombo's recommendations would allow mining interests to buy vast amounts of western federal lands by purchasing existing mining claims or staking and purchasing new claims.

- ✓ More than 270 million acres of federal land are currently open to hardrock mining—almost one-fourth of all land in the United States – and could be up for sale if Pombo recommendations are adopted.
- ✓ Mining interests have already staked mining claims covering more than **5.6 million acres of federal public land in the West as of 2004** (according to the Environmental Working Group), an area roughly two and half times the size of Yellowstone National Park.
- ✓ The risk is growing. Fueled by sky-high prices for gold and other precious minerals and metals, more than **45,560 new mining claims, covering up to 910,000 acres of federal public lands** were staked in eleven western states in 2005 alone—a 4-fold increase since 2001, according to federal BLM data.
- ✓ Since roughly 20% of all existing federal mining claims are controlled by non-U.S. companies, according to the EWG (www.ewg.org/mining), Pombo's recommendations could lead to a massive transfer of our cherished public lands to foreign interests.

Our National Parks For Sale:

Rep. Pombo's recommendations would even allow mining interests to purchase land in important ecological and historically significant public lands -- including our National Parks!

Up to **2,320 acres of mining claims are already located in national parks**, and up to **56,960 acres of mining claims are already located within 5 miles of a National Park boundary**. For example, 2,520 acres of mining claims are located in and nearby Yosemite National Park, and 25,720 acres of mining claims are located in and nearby Death Valley National Monument.

More troubling, Rep. Pombo's recommendations would open lands for purchase within national conservation units, such as National Parks, National Monuments and Wilderness Areas, that are mineralized or where mineralization has recently been depleted.

Amount of Federal Public Lands Claimed by Mining Interests, By State

States	AK	AZ	CA	CO	ID	MT	NM	NV	OR	Utah	WY	Total
# of Acres	196,408	642,000	635,000	123,000	260,000	246,000	170,000	2,500,000	191,000	367,000	353,000	5.6 million

*claims numbers based on information from Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org/mining/); AK data is for BLM land only