

# PLACES AT RISK

## MINING THREATENS OUR NATURAL TREASURES

### Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

**One of the world's Natural Wonders, Grand Canyon National Park stretches over 1,902 square miles, encompassing an extensive system of colorful tributary canyons cut through by the Colorado River.** With over five million visitors each year, the spectacular views, electrifying rapids and challenging hikes make for a recreationist's dream and a source of national pride. The Canyon also offers great opportunities for bird watching, wildlife viewing and fishing. Both the north and south rims of the Grand Canyon have been threatened by uranium mining in the past and many abandoned mining claims dot the landscape. Despite a temporary hold on mining, increased interest in uranium could mean new claims around the Canyon in the near future.



Grand Canyon, Arizona

### Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah

**Grand Staircase Escalante's unique biological and cultural resources include landscapes spanning five life zones and remains of a history dating back to 950 AD.** Areas of this former national monument, including its monoliths, slot canyons, natural bridges, and arches are now being threatened by copper and silver mining. Grand Staircase-Escalante, previously protected, and now only 15% of its original size, has become open to mining for the first time in 21 years.<sup>1</sup>



Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah

### Bears Ears National Monument, Utah

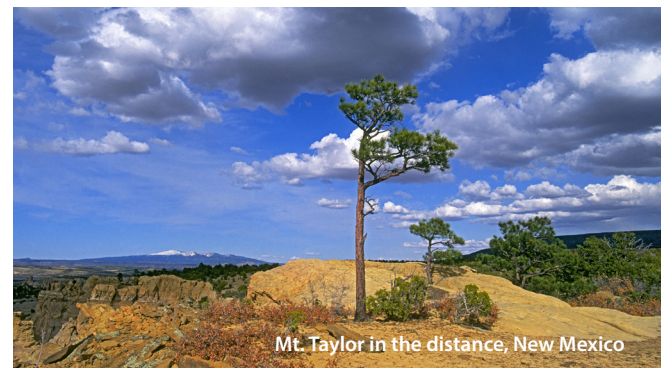
**The Bears Ears National Monument was protected at the request of a Native American coalition of Navajo, Hopi, Zuni and Ute tribes.** When the President removed protections for 83% of the Monument's area in December 2017, mining interests immediately began reviving uranium mining claims under the 1872 Mining Law.



Cliff Dwelling, Bears Ears National Monument

### Mount Taylor, New Mexico

**The oldest continuously inhabited region in the United States, and home to a pilgrimage site for at least 30 Native American tribes, Mount Taylor has been listed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of America's 11 most endangered historic places.** The Navajo Nation, still reeling from decades of uranium mining on and around their reservation, is once again threatened by mining. The Mount Taylor area is being explored for uranium mining threatening to destroy the rooted history and traditions of the area.<sup>2</sup>



Mt. Taylor in the distance, New Mexico

# PLACES AT RISK FROM MINING

## Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area, Montana

**One of the first areas protected under the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area contains 94,272 acres of rugged, mountainous terrain in the Kootenai National Forest.** The area includes scenic vistas, remote alpine meadows, dozens of high mountain lakes, and critical habitat for threatened native bull trout and Cabinet Yaak grizzly bears – one of the last remaining grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states. Hecla Mining Company's proposed Rock Creek silver/copper mine would be constructed on public lands adjacent to and directly underneath the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area, in the face of strong opposition from local downstream communities. Almost 10,000 acres of the Wilderness Area and its surroundings have been staked with mining claims.



## Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona

**The Santa Rita Mountains are an important recreation area for Tucson, and a biological core of the Sonoran Desert.** A Canadian company proposes a large open pit copper mine, along with a mill site and tailings dump, on public land managed by the Coronado National Forest. Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, the Cities of Tucson, Patagonia and Oro Valley, and the Mayor and Council of the Town of Sahuarita passed unanimous resolutions opposing the mine. The resolutions call to stop the mine, withdraw the minerals, and reform the 1872 Mining Law.



PHOTOS, TOP - BOTTOM: John Lambing/Alamy Stock Photo; Norma Jean Gargas/Alamy Stock Photo

- 1 <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/21/622128554/firm-prepares-to-mine-land-previously-protected-as-a-national-monument>; <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/utah/grand-staircase-escalante-national-monument>
- 2 <https://www.abqjournal.com/1147876/environmental-groups-battle-mount-taylor-mine-decision.html>; <https://savingplaces.org/places/mount-taylor#.XE9qkM9KgUs>

earthworks.org  
earthjustice.org  
worc.org

