



James Harris <jamesharris@utah.gov>

Concerns for lack of data on American Fork Canyon River and tributaries

1 message

mark allen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sat, Jul 30, 2016 at 10:36 AM

To: jamesharris@utah.gov

Cc: Brad Frost <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

James,

My name is Mark Allen. I started a group called Protect and Preserve American Fork Canyon, now, 11,000 members.

I have concerns for lack of data on water quality and protections (lack of protections) in American Fork Canyon. We know there are heavy metals upstream, we know there is a historic mining history and EPA interventions (partial), we know Snowbird has points of pollution (Mary Ellen Gulch) which have gone unaddressed or remediated. We know there is no heavy metals testing in drinking water in the canyon, yet 1.2M visits are made to the canyon. This is a potential huge liability.

What is needed? EPA to come and do a full hazards analysis of heavy metals in the canyon and implementation of water protections measures be put in place, including testing of campground water, Snowbird to be ordered by EPA to remediate their mine tailings. Funding for DWQ to implement a plan to protect the water, not just tell the citizens it is not safe to use (Utah Lake Algae Bloom comes to mind).

We know Snowbird is fiddling around in the portal of a mine adit and its possible there are tens of thousands of gallons of tainted water behind the earthen plug, again, no oversight from the state, we need the EPA to come in, this should be a CERCLA project.

We are aware of Mountain Accord proposed land swaps in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, yet ironically about 300+ mines on private lands have not had any hazards analysis done and the public should not be encumbered by the resorts toxic tailings which can impair water. Again, no data or no one is in charge of gathering data to proactively protect watersheds.

In my view, this is well above the expertise county or state entities. The EPA was the solution to remediation in Mineral Basin, now, their expertise and oversight is needed in Mary Ellen Gulch.

Please include these ideas in the integrated report.

James Harris
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attachments - Snowbird construction at adit opening, lead, arsenic, zinc source point of pollution to public land.

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7 attachments



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