



James Harris <jamesharris@utah.gov>

American Fork Canyon

1 message

Jon Geertsen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sat, Jul 30, 2016 at 11:37 AM

To: jamesharris@utah.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Dear James,

My name is Jon Geertsen. I am a member of a group called Protect and Preserve American Fork Canyon, now nearly 11,000 members strong.

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 and public health concern.

What is needed? I would like to see the 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.

It is fitting that Snowbird to be ordered by EPA to remediate their mine tailings.

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 as pertaining to mine tailings and heavy metals in our canyons- owned by Ski Resorts. They should not have a free pass to pollute.

In my view, this is well above the expertise of our county or state entities and the EPA has the know how, track record and personnel to protect our canyon waters and public health.

The EPA was the solution to remediation in Mineral Basin, now, their expertise and oversight is needed in Mary Ellen Gulch.

The solution to pollution is not dilution, the solution to pollution in our canyons is simple, have the resorts clean up their mine tailings and stop the points of pollution onto public lands.

Please add my comments to the "Integrated Report."

Sincerely, a concerned citizen

Jon Geertsen

Thanks for your time.