

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3155

To preserve the multiple use land management policy in the State of Arizona,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2011

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mrs. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To preserve the multiple use land management policy in  
the State of Arizona, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Arizona Min-  
5 ing Continuity Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) over the past 20 years, a form of low-im-  
9 pact, safe, and environmentally responsible under-

1 ground “breccia pipe” uranium mining has been  
2 conducted in northern Arizona, particularly in an  
3 area located beyond the northern boundaries of the  
4 Grand Canyon National Park known as the “Arizona Strip”;

5  
6 (2) according to United States Geological Survey estimates, the Arizona Strip—

7  
8 (A) has the potential of becoming the second most important uranium-producing region  
9 in the United States; and

10  
11 (B) contains approximately 375,000,000  
12 pounds of high-grade uranium ore with the energy equivalent of 13,000,000,000 barrels of oil,  
13 which is approximately the quantity of recoverable oil originally found in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska;  
14  
15  
16

17 (3) in 1984, during the last uranium boom,  
18 Congress enacted the Arizona Wilderness Act of  
19 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–406),  
20 which—

21 (A) is recognized as a historic compromise  
22 between environmental and uranium mining interests; and

23  
24 (B) affirmed the continued multiple use  
25 management of Federal land on the Arizona

1 Strip that was not designated as wilderness by  
2 that Act;

3 (4) continued development of resources on the  
4 Arizona Strip would significantly boost economic  
5 growth in the area, provide for permanent well-pay-  
6 ing jobs, and serve as a source of revenue to the  
7 Federal Government and State and local govern-  
8 ments;

9 (5) on July 21, 2009, the Department of the  
10 Interior published a notice entitled “Notice of Pro-  
11 posed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meet-  
12 ing; Arizona” (74 Fed. Reg. 35887), which—

13 (A) proposed the withdrawal of approxi-  
14 mately 1,000,000 acres of Federal locatable  
15 minerals in northern Arizona from the location  
16 of new mining claims over concerns that the  
17 uranium mining could impact the Grand Can-  
18 yon watershed; and

19 (B) made no mention of the Arizona Wil-  
20 derness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note;  
21 Public Law 98–406) or the resource manage-  
22 ment plans that have governed mineral resource  
23 development on the Arizona Strip; and

24 (6) the February 2011 Draft Environmental  
25 Impact Statement for the proposed withdrawal de-

1       terminated there is no conclusive evidence from well  
2       and spring sampling data that modern-day breccia  
3       pipe uranium mining operations in the northern por-  
4       tion of the Grand Canyon region has impacted the  
5       chemical quality of groundwater in the regional-aqui-  
6       fer.

7       **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF PROPOSED MINING WITHDRAWAL**  
8                                   **WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.**

9       (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except by express authorization  
10      by Congress referencing this section and notwithstanding  
11      any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior  
12      shall not extend, renew, or issue a notice of segregation  
13      or withdrawal of the public land and National Forest Sys-  
14      tem land (including a portion of the land) described in  
15      Public Land Order 7773 (76 Fed. Reg. 37826 (June 28,  
16      2011)).

17      (b) **EFFECT OF NOTICE.**—Any notice of segregation  
18      or withdrawal of the land described in subsection (a) shall  
19      have no legal effect.

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