



**P**resident Ulysses S. Grant signed it into law 135 years ago. And today the 1872 Mining Act still stands, giving the extraction of gold, uranium and other “hardrock” minerals on public lands priority status, regardless of the impact on watersheds, wildlife or local communities.

# Times Change

## And So Should the 1872 Mining Law



The cost to Americans has been high.

- The U.S. Treasury loses an estimated \$100 million a year because the metal mining industry — unlike coal, oil and gas companies — can extract valuable resources from public land essentially for free.
- Taxpayers face a \$50 billion cleanup bill from this industry, which releases more toxic pollution than any other.\*
- Claimholders can buy public land for \$5 an acre or less, and use it for anything from condominiums to casinos. An area nearly the size of Connecticut has already been sold at these 1872 prices.

Worse yet, a new rush is on in the West. Over the past five years, mining claims for uranium, gold and other metals on public lands have increased almost 50 percent.\*\* Many of these new claims — staked largely by foreign-owned companies — lie near national treasures such as the Grand Canyon, as well as highly populated urban areas and tribal lands.

**It's time to reform the 1872 Mining Act and reclaim our public lands for future generations.**

**[PewMiningReform.org](http://PewMiningReform.org)**

THE PEW CAMPAIGN FOR  
**RESPONSIBLE MINING**  
RECLAIM OUR FUTURE

\*US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, “Cleaning Up the Nation’s Waste Sites: Markets and Technology Trends,” September 2004.

\*\*US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Land and Mineral Records – LR2000 system.