



President of the United States
Ulysses S. Grant

Proclamation

WHEREAS the purpose of the 1872 Mining Law was to encourage development of the western United States;

WHEREAS the 1872 Mining Law gives top priority to the mining of gold, uranium and other hardrock metals on most western public lands, regardless of impact on the environment or local communities;

WHEREAS the population of the nation's 12 western states has grown from one million to seventy million since the 1872 Mining Law was signed;

WHEREAS at the time the 1872 Mining Law was signed, hardrock mining was conducted by prospectors with picks and pack mules;

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency has found that hardrock mining today is the nation's top emitter of toxic pollutants;

WHEREAS the federal government estimates that cleanup costs related to hardrock mining could run as high as \$50 billion;

WHEREAS approximately 500,000 abandoned mines now scar the nation's landscape;

WHEREAS the hardrock mining industry still pays virtually nothing for the gold, uranium and other precious metals it takes from public lands;

WHEREAS federal data indicates a dramatic surge in new mining claims in the West, some only a "stone's throw" from the Grand Canyon and other national treasures;

WHEREAS the 1872 Mining Law has outlived 24 U.S. Presidents and its usefulness to the American people;

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed bipartisan legislation to modernize the nation's 135-year-old mining law;

NOW, THEREFORE, I PRESIDENT ULYSSES S. GRANT do hereby formally bid farewell to the 1872 Mining Law and call on the U.S. Senate to take immediate action to give modern mining a modern law.

Ulysses S. Grant
President of the United States