

## 1.5 million acres lost to mining in 2000!\*

### Monuments Created in Arizona in 2000

	Acres
Grand Canyon Parashant	1,014,000
Agua Fria	71,000
Ironwood Forest	129,000
Vermillion Cliffs	29,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,507,000</b>

\*An additional 500,000 acres are under consideration; the proposed Sonoran Desert National Monument that includes the Maricopa Mountains, a portion of the Barry Goldwater Range, and Vekol Valley.

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*Address Correction Requested*

## Mineral Resource

### Will "3809" Stop Mining?

On November 21 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued new, stricter regulations for mining operations. Called the 'final rule' by the BLM, the regulations are a revision of the Surface Management Regulations for Locatable Mineral Operations (43 CFR 3809) and encompass a variety of changes in the way the BLM oversees mining and exploration activity conducted under the 1872 Mining Law. The new regulations are applicable to public lands where the surface and mineral estates are managed by BLM and split estate lands where BLM manages the mineral estate. The regulations do not apply to Forest Service lands.

The mining industry particularly objects to the new, expanded definition of 'unnecessary or undue degradation' included in the new regulations. This new definition includes a provision for preventing "Substantial Irreparable Harm". Industry fears that this provision will give the BLM unlimited veto power over new and revised mining operations. If industry interests, including the National Mining Association, decide to file suit to protect the industry against what they consider arbitrary and unnecessary regulation, this expanded definition will likely be at the heart of their case.

Unless a court injunction stops them, the rules are due to take effect January 20, 2001. The final rule appeared in the Federal Register on November 21, 2000 and may be viewed at the Federal Register website - [www.access.gpo.gov](http://www.access.gpo.gov).

### Casual Use

A significant change in the regulations is the much narrower definition of notice level activity and a distinction between mining and exploration. **The allowance of mining operations of less than 5 acres at the notice level, is now gone.** All mining operations now require a plan of operations.

Casual use activities are limited to hand tools and battery operated sensing devices. These activities must result in no or negligible disturbance of the surface and do not require that a bond be posted. When individuals or groups are likely to cause more than negligible distur-

bance they are required to contact BLM to determine if a plan or notice may be required.

Gathering up to 250 pounds of minerals per year for personal use, without a mining claim, using hand tools, is allowed under BLM Arizona's rock hounding guidance policy. BLM Arizona is considering proposing a policy that the BLM must be contacted to determine if a notice or plan is needed for the collection of amounts over 250 pounds even when using hand tools or other methods usually associated with casual use on a mining claim.

### Notice

Exploration operations of less than 5 acres can still be conducted with a notice unless more than 1000 tons of bulk sampling is proposed. Future notice level activities will require an operator to post a "Financial Guarantee" or bond for reclamation. This bond must be in-place before exploration activities begin. Current operations conducted under existing notices that are complete by January 20, 2001 will be allowed to operate for two years. After the initial two year period, and posting of a bond, these notices may be extended in two year increments.

### Plan

The new regulations continue the requirement for bonds to be posted for plans. Currently approved plans or pending plans as of January 20, will be required to provide bonds by July 19, 2001 that conform to the new regulations. Operations under such plans may continue under the existing regulations, with the exception of bond provisions until the work proposed in the plan is completed.

The new regulations also allow any interested party to request a BLM sponsored visit to mining operations on public lands. Quoting the regulations "Operators must allow the visit and must not exclude persons whose participation BLM authorizes." Operators must provide the safety training that they provide other BLM-sponsored visitors. Operators do not have to provide transportation for these visits, but they must provide access for BLM vehicles. The possible abuse of this requirement is evident.



### High Grade

"High Grade," a surface miner, is one of three 7-foot bronze statues of miners on loan from Phelps Dodge. The statues will be on display at the Museum until Phelps Dodge moves into their new offices that are currently under construction on the northeast corner of Washington and Central. The bronzes were sculpted in 1987/88 by artist Gary Prazen. "In Control," a woman miner, and "The Sentinel," a miner checking an air sample, are the other two statues.



### NSTA Convention

On December 7 - 9 the Department assisted the Society for Mining Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) in staffing an exhibit booth and providing minerals for teachers' kits for the National Science Teachers Association's (NSTA) regional convention held at the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

Over 2000 science teachers primarily from Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah, but

from many other states as well, attended the convention and most of them stopped by the SME booth for information and a teachers' kit.

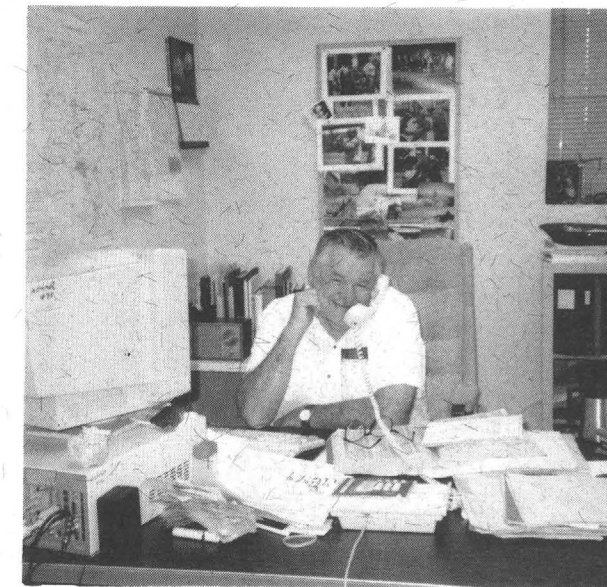
NSTA's mission is to promote excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning. The convention was planned to respond to the changing professional development needs of science educators.

The Department supplied 2000 samples of 14 different rocks and minerals for the kits. We in turn wish to thank those in the Arizona mineral industry who provided the large quantity of materials that were required. Contributors include: Applied Chemical Magnesia Corporation, Arizona Rock Products Association, Asarco Incorporated, Coconino Cinders and Materials, Drake Sandstone Products, Gypsum Association, Kilauea Crushers, Inc., Phelps Dodge Corporation, Pinal Gypsum Company, Salt River Project, Southwestern Mineral Associates, Superior Marble Company, and Morton Salt.

The Department is always pleased to assist in educating educators on the vital role minerals play in modern civilization.



Science teachers happily line up for mineral samples at the SME booth at the NSTA convention. It was the most popular exhibit at the convention.



### H. Mason Coggin - 1938 - 2000

Mining lost one of its best friends and most outspoken supporters when H. Mason Coggin, former director of the Department, died Tuesday, November 7. Mason was 62. He served as director from August, 1993 to December, 1998, bringing to the Department his enthusiasm and passion for Arizona and mining, as well as his pragmatic expertise. Mason will be remembered for his professional accomplishments, his charm, his fun-loving and, at times, irreverent wit, and above all, his big and loving heart.

Mason was born in Bisbee where both his father and his grandfather were miners. He graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in mining engineering. After college Mason worked as a mining engineer for Phelps Dodge in Bisbee, Tyrone, and Safford.

Much of Mason's career was spent as a consultant, including 10 years with Coe and Van Loo Consulting Engineers as senior vice president of mining and 10 years as an independent consultant, specializing in placer projects around the world.

Mason authored many articles and papers on mining and mining history as well as co-editing *History of Mining in Arizona, Volumes III and IV*. He served as chairman of the Maricopa Section of AIME. He was a member of the Arizona Humanities Council Community Speakers Program and was a popular speaker on a variety of subjects including the history of gold and copper mining, the economic impact of mining, placer sampling, and cowboy poetry.

After retirement Mason, along with his wife Janice, formed a publishing company specializing in cowboy poetry - another of Mason's passions.

Those who wish to pay a tribute to Mason may make a contribution to the school where their daughter JoAnn resides: Valley of the Sun School and Habilitation Center 1142 W. Hatcher Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85021-3045 (602) 371-0806

### New Life for Copperstone

On September 13 American Bonanza Gold Mining Corp. began driving a decline from the north floor of the existing open pit at Copperstone in La Paz County. American Bonanza Gold has formed a partnership with Centennial Development Corporation who is performing the underground development. As of December 11 the decline was 1200 feet long and only 200 feet from the first target area.

The decline project will provide information about the ground conditions, enable taking a bulk sample of up to 50,000 tons for metallurgical testing and possible cash flow generation, and provide underground drill sites to further test the d-zone mineralization.

American Bonanza Gold, which was formerly Asia Minerals, began negotiations to acquire Copperstone when Royal Oaks went into receivership in March of last year.

Earlier this year, Bonanza Gold reported an 827,400-ton resource at 0.56 ounces au/ton. Cyprus Copperstone Gold Corp. produced 500,000 ounces of gold from Copperstone's open pit between 1987 and 1993.

### Leaming Report Released

In 1999, the Arizona copper industry had a combined direct and indirect impact on the Arizona economy of nearly \$6.2 billion, down from the \$9.2 billion in 1998.

These figures are from George F. Leaming's report, *The Economic Impact of the Arizona Copper Industry 1999* that is now available from the Arizona Mining Association.

### Correction

In the last issue of *Mineral Resource* it was reported that the Department's new board member, James Miller, was chief chemist for Phoenix Cement for 20 years. Actually Mr. Miller worked in a variety of managerial positions, including chief chemist.