

My name is Michael DeVries. 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 historic mining and the associated tailings laden with lead, arsenic, zinc and other toxins, there have been some effective EPA interventions (partial) in Mineral Basin, the EPA and Forest Service doing a good job in clean up. We also know Snowbird has multiple points of pollution (Mary Ellen Gulch) which have gone unaddressed or unremediated. 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 before starting any further activity in the canyon.

We know Snowbird is fiddling around in the portal of a mine adit (pictures) 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 at their expense and stop the points of pollution onto public lands.

Please add my comments to the "Integrated Report."

Sincerely, a concerned citizen

Michael T DeVries