

# Montrose Daily Press

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## Uranium suit could affect West End mill proposal

### Circuit Court ruling allows enviros to view previously blocked files

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The leases at issue were put out to bid in 2007 and issued in June 2008. A month later, Durango-based attorney Travis Stills filed suit on behalf of the Colorado Environmental Coalition, the Center for Native Ecosystems, the Center for Biological Diversity and INFORM. Stills is with the nonprofit Energy and Minerals Law Center.

The Bureau of Land Management had suggested to DOE contractors in September 2005 that the uranium mine leases could cause “water depletion and/or toxic discharges that may affect four species of endangered Colorado River fish downstream and three species of sensitive fish and that .... rainbow trout may be affected in the area and downstream,” says a document provided by the plaintiffs.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also suggested in a March 2006 letter that the DOE was not adequately protecting migratory birds and had done an inadequate job of listing protected plants.



FILE PHOTO/ William Woody Energy Fuels Resources miners Allen Young, Steve Puderbaugh and Kenneth Chadd describe their experiences mining last Tuesday afternoon June 5, 2007. All three have decades of time underground