

28 Sept 2016

Coronado National Forest
Attn: Minerals and Geology Staff Re- Hermosa-Taylor
300 W Congress St, 6th floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

To whom it may concern,

I view any future mining in the Patagonia Mountains with alarm and foreboding based on the remains and history of mining in the area.

The Patagonia Mountains undoubtedly have some precious metals and other ores that will if produced bring profit for the mining principals.....but at what cost. Presently we have come to some sort of equilibrium in living with the degradation brought about by former small mines of many years ago.

The technologies of present day mining have not proved to be protective of ecosystems nor the inhabitants be they human, plant or other animal. The resulting probability of air quality degradation, elimination of endangered species, pollution of water quality and watershed, corridors for wild life movement, health of workers and residents, the movement of large machinery and transport of ores through the area, cultural resources and socioeconomic impacts are a part of the mix. But you have heard all this before.

The profits envisioned and local employment, if any, are the least of the factors that must be evaluated in a detailed and thorough manner. Anything less would be a travesty for the future of our homes and our lives. It is your responsibility to pursue these issues vigorously in your report and to insure that, what ever company owns the leases if the permits are eventually granted, that there is no escape from reparation of the land, water quality and purity of the air we all breath.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D Wenig", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Wenig
P.O. Box 4,
Patagonia, AZ