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Sierra Vista Ranger District

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<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=55719>

SUBJECT: SUNNYSIDE EXPLORATORY DRILLING PROPOSAL IN THE PATAGONIA MOUNTAINS

Mr Goshen,

I have recently moved to Patagonia, AZ (March 2019) with my wife because of it's natural beauty and vast natural resources. There is a successful environmental based tourism and recreational economy in which the town relies on. I am concerned that future mining exploration will negatively affect these unique features. The impact of current and future mining operations have and will continue to have a negative impact on our health and quality of life.

I believe an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** should be required based on the Sunnyside Operations Plan (PN 2810-030503 revised 8/16/19) states on page 4, "Arizona's Standard's proposed Sunnyside Exploration Drilling Project is designed to evaluate location, concentration, quality and type of mineralization in the area, and to help establish the feasibility of possible future mining operations". An **Environmental Impact Statement** will help fully determine the impact of the Sunnyside Exploratory Drilling Proposal.

Below please find why I believe an EIS is important:

Air Quality:

All mining activities will have a negative impact on air quality. The present declining air quality in the Patagonia area must be reversed.

Water Quality and Quantity:

The plan offers no action alternative to protecting our water quality or quantity. A comprehensive study should be conducted on the entire groundwater system of Santa Cruz County. This project is within a Forest Service designated Municipal Watershed that provides the source of drinking water for the Town of Patagonia and wildlife within the watershed area. The plan does not clearly indicate where the water being used will come from. I am concerned the drill depths of up to 6500' will negatively affect the area's aquifer which is around 1000'.

Noise Impact:

Noise caused by the 24/7 – 7 year Project will have a negative affect on both human and wildlife population. I would fear some of our rare and special species will be driven from their natural habitat.

Soil:

Mining activities expose the soil to toxic materials that will erode when exposed to monsoon rains.