

Roads:
The expansion and widening of roadways in the area will affect landscape and wildlife. Increased traffic will affect the quality of life in the Patagonia area. There are endangered species in this area and are thus designated as protected areas.

Dark Skies:
This project will have a negative affect on the beautiful Dark Skies in our area. I would expect there would be a negative impact on the research work at the Whipple Observatory also.

Cultural Resources:
The Patagonia Mountains are the home to vast cultural resources and all efforts must be made to protect them.

Visual Impact:
Drilling pads, especially operating 24/7 are an eyesore and a negative impact in the area.

Global Biodiversity Hotspot:

This region is part of the Madiran Pine Oak Woodlands, a global biodiversity hotspot.

-There are more than 300 species of birds.

-Patagonia is the pollinator capital of the United States with over 600 species of native bees, 300 types of butterflies and moths, 14 hummingbird species and two nectar feeding bats.

-The Patagonia range is a gateway for jaguars and ocelots traveling to and from breeding grounds in Mexico.

-There are 112 Federally designated threatened, endangered and sensitive species in the Patagonia Mountains.

-Patagonia is internationally renowned by scientists, bird watchers, hikers, campers, hunters, bikers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Cumulative Impact:

Cumulative impacts will occur in the Patagonia Mountains because of multiple proposed and existing mining projects. Some reasons why an EIS is required are:

-Existing abandoned and leaking mines

-Current mining extraction activity.

-Other mining exploration activity.

-Livestock grazing.

-Safety

-Recreation activities in the area.

-Lake Patagonia and Sonoita Creek.

Respectfully,

Chester E Busse Jr

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