

Wind Spirit Community
4514 E Dripping Spring Road
Winkelman, Arizona 85192
February 28, 2021

Reviewing Official, Regional Forester
333 Broadway Boulevard SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
Ref: Resolution Copper Project

Dear Reviewing Official, Regional Forester:

I am writing in objection to the U.S. Forest Service transferring government-owned land in Arizona to Rio Tinto Plc for its Resolution Copper project. This land is sacred to Apache as well as other Indian tribes in AZ. This mine will send Oak Flat crumbling into oblivion, forever unstable and off limits to human use. The vast groundwater pumping for the mine would also deplete the regional aquifer and dry up nearby springs and streams, with devastating impacts on wildlife and humans. The whole nonsense of needing this copper for our electric future is so short sighted and put out by people with little vision. (but that is a whole other subject). There are other mines in this region that knowledgeable mining people say still have 30 years of copper in them still to be extracted where the land is already devastated.

Skunk Camp

Skunk Camp and the valley along Dripping Springs RD has hundreds of Indian sites that hold a lot of history of Indian ancestors going back at least 1300+ years. I have personally visited some of these sites with Indian archaeologists who have shared the rich Indian history of this area. It is a disgrace how the Indians have been treated and are still treated, you would think people would evolve out of this.

The biggest concern I have is the water issue, I feel that EIS statements is incomplete on this issue, is short sighted and was also cut short by the Trump administration that was very hostile to any environmental regulation and undid 100 environmental laws, the early termination of the incomplete EIS is disgraceful.

It is very obvious that the climate is changing and RC (Resolution Copper) dependence on the CPA canal water will be limited in the future. This valley where Skunk Camp is located is fed by 3 mountain ranges and according to a state survey in 2005 has ground water from 17ft. to 1700ft. RC wants all of this water. This taking the good abundant ground water in Dripping Springs Aquifer and turning it toxic which will also further pollute the Gila River. Arizona being the last in line for CPA water means in the future when there is a water shortage RS will pump dry most of the ground water in this region. Look worldwide and aquifers are being pumped dry in every country, again short term gain, long term loss, business as usual.

Given that this mine will go ahead as planned thanks to the last minute signing John McCain did on the military spending bill. Any reasonable caring person would find this situation disrespectful and disgraceful. It would make a lot more sense that the toxic tailings should stay in Superior where there has been mining destruction for well over 150 years. The land there is already destroyed and it will be for thousands of years before the land is viable again for anything. Destroying the relative pristine valley along Dripping Springs Mountains is not well thought out, but greed does seem to reign.

After being involved in this resolution Copper issue for many years, I know I am supposed to be specific about issues in more detail but I feel the resent judges rulings in Phoenix, Trumps early termination of EIS and what John McCain and others did, this process delegitimized itself.

Donald Clark
Land Steward, Wind Spirit Community
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