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First name: Robert

Last name: Misiorowski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please see attached letter in re: Arizona Mineral's Hermosa-Taylor deposit drilling project

Coronado National Forest

Attn: Minerals and Geology Staff

300 W Congress St, 6th Floor

Tucson AZ 85701

IN RE: Arizona Mineral's Hermosa-Taylor deposit drilling project

October 4, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

One would assume that the reason the Forest Service exists is to protect the forest. And a forest is comprised of many things[hellip] foremost of which are trees. When I go to the forest, I don[rsquo]t go to see grassland, I go for the trees, which, in our high desert environment, not only provide shade for humans and creatures, but leaves to nourish the soil, roots to stabilize the very earth, and whose ability to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen gives us the very air we breathe. Why science has shown that these wonderful plants have a system of communicating with each other.

So why in earth would the Forest Service approve Arizona Minerals[rsquo] Hermosa-Taylor[rsquo]s POO to cut down 234 trees - 220 trees with diameters greater than four inches and less than 12 inches with the possibility that they would cut down another 14 trees with diameters OVER 12 inches.

AND they want you to approve their proposal to replace those trees with seeds of grass? In what world does that deal make sense to anyone?

Instead, let me propose that the FOREST service insist that one of the conditions which must be met in order to consider approving this POO from the [ldquo]Taylor[rdquo] drilling project would be for them to REPLACE EVERY tree they cut down, you know[hellip] return things in EXACTLY the way they found them. So that the citizens who OWN the forest could, once again, enjoy the trees. Arizona Mineral[rsquo]s is a rich stock company. They seem to have money enough to operate drilling rigs and pay crews to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week for many weeks, leasing generators and lights to ignite the night sky and massive bulldozers and front end loaders to ravage the environment.

They had enough money to exchange a two million dollar pledge to clean up the poison water that an earlier mining company left behind as its legacy to the forest in the Patagonia mountains [ndash] and for that money they have gained access, on a private basis, to a vast amount of land upon which they are currently drilling wells

and tearing up the landscape all the while blocking access to this land because the Forest Service lacks the will to challenge the right-of-way easement which has been operating for 40 years and would certainly seem to qualify as an implied easement in the state of Arizona.

They have enough money to buy t-shirts for all of their workers, t-shirts with some highly offensive language, so that the town becomes all too aware of their presence.

In short, money doesn't seem to be an issue for them.

According to the website: howmuch.net - a 14 to 20 foot tall tree costs \$2423.00 per tree to plant, including the tree, site prep, transportation, etc.

So, by my figures, to REFOREST the area and reclaim it in the absolute sense of the word, to replant 243 trees would cost 567,000 USD dollars. Why give this project a discount? If you decide to let them go ahead and run rampant over even more land in the Patagonia Mountains, then at least make them plant these trees, and care for them until they are established. Say one person spends 10 minutes per tree per week. That's a 40 hour week. Plus water plus water truck. Let's say for three months, until the trees get established \$40 per hour that's another \$20,000 plus cost of water, tanker truck, etc.

Let's round it off to 600,000 USD.

Forget throwing out some grass seed. That is NOT bringing back the area anything close to what the site looks like now.

Now let's look at what minerals they are drilling for. Are the minerals in critically short supply and needed for our national interests, or is this solely a profit making venture taking advantage of a hopelessly out of date Mining Act of two centuries ago to exploit the natural resources which are supposedly owned by all American citizens in order to enrich the shareholders of the company and its executives?

Have we lost all reason?

The tourism industry in Patagonia and the surrounding areas is a sustainable, ecologically sensitive, revenue producing industry. An industry that is NOT compatible with hard rock NOR open pit mining operations that dirty the water, foul the air, frighten the wildlife and pollute the night air with light. An industry that does NOT threaten water supplies, endangered species, the DARK SKIES initiative, or the lives of humans and animals as literally hundreds of trucks race up and down town, county and forest roads in a race to make money by shipping our resources to foreign lands.

I pray that you will see fit to require this mining concern to submit to the thorough analysis of an Environmental Impact Statement, one that reviews the CUMULATIVE impacts of this project - in addition to the other mining operations, both those actually underway and those in planning states - on our town, on our natural world, and [ndash] perhaps most importantly [ndash] on our water and our wells.

I am also concerned that the performance bond be issued by a company with a proven record of bonding these types of operations and that the bond is sufficiently large to cover any costs that the company may not cover in the future. The Forest Service knows only too well the extremely high costs associated with abandoned mines as it is dealing with several of them in the Patagonia Mountains right now. Let us be certain that we do not burden future generations with the costs of more abandoned mining projects where the bond was insufficient to meet the requirements of clean air and water.

Your truly,

Robert A. Misiorowski

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Patagonia, Arizona 85624

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