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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Coronado National Forest

Attn: Minerals and Geology Staff Re: Hermosa-Taylor

300 W. Congress St., 6th Floor

Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Sir:

I have many concerns regarding the Hermosa-Taylor drilling project in the Patagonia Mountains.

1. The US Forest Service must be required to complete an Environmental Impact

Statement for the proposed AMI exploratory drilling project. The cumulative impact of the

200+ holes already drilled, along with the 130+ abandoned mines in the area must be

studied in detail in order to predict long-term damage to the Patagonia municipal

watershed. Will these drill holes connect with any existing drainages, drill holes, or mine

shafts? Will the drilling cause already-existing problems of acid mine drainage to

become more prevalent and extend the problems to this area?

2. As a Global Biodiversity Hotspot, the Patagonia Mountains are an important part of the

migratory route for many threatened and endangered species, including the ocelot,

jaguar, yellow-billed cuckoo, Mexican spotted owl and lesser long-nosed bat. How will

the cumulative effects of mining in the Patagonia Mountains in Arizona and mining

projects in Mexico affect the breeding and migratory patterns of these species? An

Environmental Impact Statement must be completed in order to have a thorough study

to prevent a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

3. Patagonia is a thriving, cohesive community with an eco-tourism economic base that draws

birders, hunters, hikers, artists and campers. The significant impacts on the socioeconomics

of the community must be thoroughly studied so that the boom and bust

reality of mining does not negatively impact the economy of the region.

4. Air quality deterioration because of the cumulative impact of all current operations, along with the 120 gallons of diesel fuel burned daily by each drill rig will have a negative impact on the health and well-being of residents. These impacts must be thoroughly analyzed to protect the health of the community.

The failure of clean-up operations for the abandoned Lead Queen Mine shows just how difficult it is to prevent environmental damage after the mining is done, and the U.S. taxpayer is left to pay for remediation. If the US Forest Service can't learn from the continuing legacy of abandoned mines then why do we even pretend to allow citizens to have a voice in this process?

Sincerely,

Carol Shinsky

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