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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fire Risk

We are in the middle of a 20 year drought. The Hermosa project is right in the middle of a high risk for fire designation. Their plan is for a high voltage line with Unisource to run from Patagoina all the way to Rio Rico. This is right through the high risk for fire. This line needs to be buried! All one has to do is look at Paradise Valley, Lahini Hi, and Texas Panhandle these fires were all from power lines.

Water

Hermosa plans on using 1.8 to 3.2 million gallons a day for their operational purposes. Then nearly 6.5 gallons will be discharged into the Harshaw Creek and Alum Gulch considering dewatering. These waterways have not held this much water!! And what is going to happen during monsoons and all the flooding that will be associated with this? And why is South 32 being allowed to monitor their own and report. That is like allowing the fox in the henhouse!!

Traffic

The increased traffic on local roads. State route 82 is a scenic highway and is already dangerous. Now you add an additional 108 semis what is going to happen to that asphalt and the other vehicles. 82 is a classic bicycle route and is also a bicycle race between Nogales and Patagonia. You will be risking every bike rider there is.

Biodiversity and the Environment

There are over 100 endangered species in the Patagonia Mountains not limited to the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, the Mexican Spotted Owl, and Jaguar. You would think that the forest service would be doing everything they can to protect this animals. The plant life that will be destroyed due to the cone of destruction as they dewater the mountain is unimaginable!

I am completely against this project and how the forest service has sold out its own citizens