

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/11/2024 6:03:05 AM

First name: Zarath

Last name: Giannangelo

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Kerwin S. Dewberry, Forest Supervisor

Coronado National Forest

ATTN: Hermosa Critical Minerals Project

300 West Congress Street

Tucson, AZ, 85701

RE: Scoping comments on Hermosa Critical Minerals Project

Dear Supervisor Dewberry,

Arizona has been my home for the past 30 years. I lived in Sedona for fifteen years and for the most recent fifteen years, I've lived 40 miles downstream of the Hermosa Project on the Santa Cruz River (less than 20 miles away, as the crow flies).

I've worked as a tour guide both in Sedona and here in Southern Arizona. I mention this because I have seen, first hand, how irresponsible development and/or overdevelopment has affected a local economy, regional ecology, and the overall vibe of an area. I use the word 'vibe' to try and capture the ineffable character of a place. A 'vibe' can be a difficult thing to study and identify, but that makes it no less real than the economy or the ecology.

My request is that you research, study, quantify, and qualify the vibe of the Patagonia Mountains and the nearby Town of Patagonia. Please model and forecast the potential effects and impacts on the vibe of the area if the Hermosa Critical Minerals Project were to be approved.

"A Citizen's Guide to NEPA" has a big bold headline on page 13 which reads, "NEPA is About People and Places." Neither people nor places can be reduced to scientific research data. A place is more than the combination of its geology, hydrology, flora, fauna, and its incidental mineral makeup. Every individual person contributes to the unique patchwork of experiences that make up a community. People and places are both supersummative; more than the sum of their parts.

The Guide to NEPA also states that commenting is not a form of voting on alternatives. However, public opinion is a determining factor on the environment, therefore public opinion should be taken into consideration when evaluating a project's impacts on the environment. I encourage you to consider the will of the people, particularly of the people who will be most affected by this potential project.

In formulating an Environmental Impact Statement, do not leave out the more philosophical and existential questions of whether it is right or wrong to approve of the proposed Hermosa Critical Minerals Project. Just because something can be classified as legal, does not make it morally right. Please include the spiritual ramifications of this project in your analysis and the subsequent EIS.

In addition to these more metaphysical requests, I want to voice my support for the many environmental and socioeconomic concerns raised by citizens like myself who continue to express themselves so eloquently. I applaud the individuals and organizations who have tirelessly thought through the MPO and have voiced themselves in this scoping forum. Particularly, I want to echo the sentiments expressed by Carolyn Schafer on behalf of the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance and Ian Bigley on behalf of Earthworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues and I look forward to reading the Environment Impact Statement next year.

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Human Rights Advocate / Minister Zarath Immanuel Kazarian Giannangelo
Missionary / Change Agent / Destiny Reservist