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Title:

Comments: I would like to express my objections to the proposed San Antonio exploratory drilling project. This area is extremely important for it's unique bio-diversity, important migratory trails & flight paths & is home to many endangered species.

The Elegant Trogon has over the last 5 years made this area home & has been slowly increasing in numbers. In the area the drilling is expected to take place there are now 3 of these beautiful birds. The Canyon in between the 2 sets of drill sites is home to a Yellow Billed Cuckoo. Obviously the noise & disturbance of this area will drive this bird away.

I would also comment on the proposed route into these sites. Access to both sets of drilling sites by FS5500 is direct & only about 1/2 mile.

The route via FS4707 is winding & approx 2 miles long. This route goes through 2 farm gates, across a wash, through 3 Texas gates & involves 3 steep rugged inclines/declines. Heavy mine traffic will be travelling through peaceful, quiet, unpolluted, unspoilt Countryside. There will have to be much trimming of Trees & bushes & I certainly question that track/road repairs will not have to be done. I know the area well & I believe some tree's will have to be removed for large vehicles to transit.

Why is this company planning on disturbing so much Countryside unnecessarily? Once trimming, felling etc is done it can never be repaired.

The comments about Scenic Values, page 12 section D of the POO is completely untrue. These sites are on an elevated area which is clearly seen for many miles & several of the Homesteads in Duquesne & Washington Camp are less than 1 mile from these sites.

The possibility of this drilling damaging our Aquifer, polluting our ground water, polluting our soil & driving away species that are resident in this area is very disturbing for those of us who live in, stay in & enjoy this area.

This project must be subject to a full Environmental Assessment.