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Comments: I would like to strongly object to this proposal. Mining advocates may argue that minerals are needed for everyday life, even medical supplies. What is more important is the very basis of life, food & water. The area proposed is used for grazing cattle & vineyards as well as home to many communities. Neighbouring State of California has dire water shortages. Any new wells dug have to go so deep to reach the water table they are costing \$250,000-\$500,000, unaffordable to many farmers & growers. With no water their lands have become barren dust bowls, unable to grow crops. AZ is also approaching desperate water shortages. If we allow mines to dig up the land, gobble the precious water supplies there will be no land for food production or water to sustain this. The burgeoning population needs sustaining more than it needs "toys".

The project may have a "small footprint" at present, but it is pretty clear it is only the tip of the iceberg & a clever move by Barksdale to avoid the expense & time of gaining a full EA which is what this project must be obligated to submit. Mining does not belong in this pristine & unique area. People who reside here are Ranchers, Vineyard holders, artists & an older populace who came here for the remote, peace & beauty. They are not going to benefit from this project in any way, certainly not from Jobs in the mine!

This area is used by many for recreation as well as grazing & it should remain available for many uses not taken over & destroyed by overseas mining operations. Please see attached photo of the area that Barksdale intend to mutilate.