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Comments: The purpose of this letter is to ask for further analysis of the proposed action: Hermosa-Taylor drilling project by Arizona Mining (AMI) in the Patagonia Mountains, Coronado National Forest.

Please consider the following significant cumulative impacts on recreation that may result from the proposed action: Hermosa-Taylor drilling project:

My husband and I spend our weekends cycling and hiking in the National Forest lands in the Patagonia Mountains. Since the start of Arizona Mining's current exploratory drilling project on their patented claims, our experience in the Patagonia Mountains has changed dramatically.

A) Public Safety: Harshaw Road (FR 58 and FR 49) has become increasingly dangerous with increased exploratory drilling traffic. There are some narrow twists and turns and some blind curves, and meeting up with a semi-truck or heavy equipment can be dicey. FR 58 and FR 49 also sees heavy Border Patrol traffic. And during hunting season it sees a large increase with hunters and ATV's. THE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF THIS INCREASED TRAFFIC LOAD TO PUBLIC SAFETY ON HARSHAW ROAD HAS TO BE CAREFULLY ANALYZED AND THERE MUST BE A PLAN PUT IN PLACE TO PROTECT RECREATIONAL USERS INCLUDING WALKERS, HIKERS, CYCLISTS AND MOTORISTS.

B) Noise and allowable decibel levels: On many segments of trails we hike in the Patagonia Mountains we can hear the hum and grind of drill rigs. In some locations it's actually quite loud and the sound travels further than one would think. Today we were hiking in Corral Canyon, quite far from the drilling, and when we stopped to sit in the stillness and silence, we could hear the whine of a drill rig. This has significantly changed our recreational experience. There have been many studies done that show the effects of noise on physical and emotional health. I would argue that many of us are bombarded in our daily lives with noise, and that's one of the reasons some of us go into nature when we can. To get away from it. With all the drilling that's currently taking place in the Patagonia Mountains, the increased noise from this proposed project will HAVE A CUMULATIVE EFFECT ON THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES OF FOREST USERS. THESE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE SIGNIFICANT AND MUST BE CAREFULLY ANALYZED AND A PLAN DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED TO MITIGATE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THIS INCREASED NOISE LEVEL ON RECREATIONAL FOREST USERS.

C) View sheds: have been drastically changed by AMI's current drilling project on their patented claims. The Plan of Operations for the proposed action states: "Historical and recent mining activity on adjacent private lands is part of the landscape within which the Project will occur, so the addition of the three drill sites for approximately 5 months will not be a drastic change to the landscape." Past mining activity has left roads and drill pads behind, and present mining activity has degraded the views even more. We can see the new roads and drill pads and drill rigs from many different hikes we take throughout the Patagonia Mountains. Looking down on industrial operations where there once were just trees has completely changed our experience of being in the mountains. THE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT'S ADDITIONAL ACCESS ROADS, DRILL PADS, DRILL RIGS, AND ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT MUST BE CAREFULLY ANALYZED FOR THE ADDITIONAL IMPACTS THEY WILL HAVE ON RECREATIONAL FOREST USERS VIEW SHEDS.

D) Cumulative Impacts on Dark skies, visual resources/scenic values, and wildlife: Dark skies are a scientific resource. There are private observatories in the area. In the Plan of Operations it states that "Lights used for night work and safety will be directed or shielded to minimize nightly effect to surrounding areas. All lighting with comply with Article 28 of the Santa Cruz County Zoning and Development Code, which limits the total light output

requirements for outdoor lighting and sets shielding standards for such lighting." The night lighting that Arizona Minerals is currently using on their patented claims is extremely bright and can be seen from miles away. From the top of Red Mountain they are VERY bright. I've driven on Harshaw Road at night when the lights from the drilling operations made it difficult for me to see the road, similar to the way sun will momentarily blind you. Bright night lighting degrades our Dark skies, our visual resources and scenic values, and certainly impacts wildlife. THE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF THE ADDITIONAL NIGHT LIGHTING FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION MUST BE CAREFULLY ANALYZED AND A PLAN DEVELOPED TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS IT WILL HAVE ON OUR DARK SKIES, OUR VISUAL RESOURCES AND SCENIC VALUES, AND THE IMPACT TO WILDLIFE.