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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 and cumulative impacts that may result from the proposed action: Hermosa-Taylor drilling project in regards to the cumulative impacts on road conditions.

Traffic and Road Conditions: Taylor Avenue in the town of Patagonia, which then turns onto McKeown Avenue and then into Harshaw Road (FR 58 to FR 49) leading to the current drill sites as well as the project area of the proposed action have seen a large increase in traffic from the current AMI exploratory drilling project. Crew trucks run daily trips back and forth with the drilling crews that are working eight to ten rigs which run 24 hours a day in two shifts. There are frequent trips up and down Harshaw road of construction and excavation equipment, and less frequent but not uncommon trips with flatbed semi trucks hauling drill rigs, drill cores, and various other equipment. Over the course of their current drilling project on their patented claims, Harshaw road has been significantly degraded. I've cycled this road a few times a week for the last eight years, and so I have in-depth knowledge of every bump, crack and cattle guard. The road surface is wearing, there are more dips and cracks, the road's edge is being broken down, and the road is beginning to pull away from the cattle grates. The cattle grate that is just before the National Forest sign as you're heading up Harshaw is being destabilized and one of the bars of the grate closest to the road has actually been dislodged and is falling into the hole. This current proposed action would increase traffic and therefore cause even more damage to the roads. THE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF THIS CURRENT TRAFFIC IN COMBINATION WITH THE INCREASED TRAFFIC OF THE PROPOSED ACTION ON HARSHAW ROAD HAS TO BE CAREFULLY ANALYZED, AND THERE MUST BE A PLAN IN PLACE TO MITIGATE DEGRADATION OF THE ROAD.

Respectfully,

Kathi Noaker