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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Coronado National Forest

Attn: Minerals and Geology Staff Re: Hermosa-Taylor

Comments on the Hermosa-Taylor project proposal:

This project requires a thorough Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement analysis, considering the cumulative impact that this project, other proposed mining exploration, and historic mines have on the area's residents and ecosystem.

-The 20,000 gallons of water per week that the project requires come from a private well in close proximity to the Patagonia town water supply. An evaluation needs to study the cumulative impact of the project on the town's water supply, including historic mine waste and disposal of wastewater from this project.

-Road access to the project is not sufficiently addressed in the proposal. FS road 5521 is the likely access point, and an EIS needs to address the cumulative impact of this and other uses of that road.

-The project plan includes tree removal, but revegetation with grass seed. An EA and EIS need to address the loss of trees in the project area.

-The project affects areas of critical ecological importance, including riparian areas and habitat for at least five endangered species. The impacts of vegetation removal, noise, light, and hydrological impacts need to be documented in a thorough EA and EIS.

All issues need to be considered in the context of historic, current, and future mineral exploration in the area. As a Patagonia resident, I believe the EA and EIS process are needed to adequately address these issues and their impacts on clean water, traffic, dark skies, recreation, tourism, wildlife, vegetation, and residents. Thank you for your consideration.

Cassalyn David