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First name: Erica

Last name: Prather

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the current plan of operations. I am deeply concerned with leasing federal public land for foreign mining companies. Public lands are part of a shared cultural heritage for all Americans, not exclusive to just Arizona.

The project, which would include the 30 exploratory drill holes, would cause irreversible damage to ecosystems. The area around Patagonia is rich in biodiversity, and we know that there are several species on the Endangered Species list in the area, including Mexican spotted owls. The water quality and water table will be greatly diminished - and in an arid climate, this seems like the wrong thing to do. Additionally, soils could be contaminated - and we all know that soils are the basis for all life - including that of human life. It's how we grow our food. In the midst of climate change and biodiversity loss/mass extinction, I do not feel that the best use of our national forest lands is for the fleeting, temporary purposes of a foreign mining company. The roads that will be constructed to allow access points will also be extremely disturbing. Forests are some of our biggest allies in the fight against climate change - let's use them for that purpose.