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Comments: The SED project proposes to use up to 25,000 gallons of water per day for up to the next 7 years for the 2 drilling rigs running at any one time. Arizona is considered a desert State where water is at a premium. South 32 are already using vast quantities of water which can be seen as 3 of the washes close to their main entrance were running strongly 24/7 even during the drought period prior to Monsoon starting. The cumulative effect of this & the proposed water usage must be severely questioned. It was suggested at the scoping meeting that the water needed would be obtained from the Nogales area which is a nonsense alternative to Patagonia as it is still coming from a neighbouring area & depleting the areas water sources. Water is a much more precious commodity to this rapidly expanding State than any of the minerals these OVERSEAS companies are hoping to reclaim from the land. Humans, livestock & Fauna & Flora depend on water for their very existence.

The SED project has the potential to cause irreparable damage to an area of unique bio-logical diversity. The area is a game corridor for endangered species & an important migration route. It is home to the endangered & rare Spotted Owl which has already moved from a long standing nesting site to be more distant from the light & noise of the Hermosa Taylor site. A recent study published in the Science Journal reveals that 1/4 of N Americas birds have disappeared over the last 50 years. 3 billion birds! Most of this attributed to the disappearance of & disturbance to their migration paths & habitat.

Forest Service are protectors of this land which belongs to the public & is for the recreational use & enjoyment of the public. It is proposed that areas of this land will be cordoned off for safety reasons during drilling & FS tracks may be decommissioned, therefore public access will be diminished as has happened with the Taylor Hermosa project. Forest Service must make a stand against these overseas companies who are exploiting this area. The out dated & Draconian 1872 mining act is making it too easy for these companies to move in & take advantage of the resources in the area. The much more stringent policies & ecological awareness in Canada & Australia make it more difficult for them to mine their own Countries. The 1872 mining act was drafted when picks, shovels & mules were used, not machines capable of mass destruction. Forest Service must make a stand against this proposal before this rare & beautiful area is gone forever.