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Comments: I request that the Forest Service require an extensive traffic study be completed by the proponent before approval of this project. Patagonia has seen an exponential increase in traffic due to a mining operation that is in progress within close proximity to the proposed exploratory drilling project of the proponent. The cumulative effect of the additional heavy truck traffic, worker traffic, and other vehicles as needed for this operation will have a detrimental effect on the health, safety, and quality of life of the people living in Patagonia. It is not fair or right for the residents of Patagonia to have to put up with this operation. I also request that the study examine alternative routes that do not pass through Patagonia.

Michael Stabile

Vice-Mayor of Patagonia