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Comments: The Sky Islands of the Sierra Madre in Mexico and those in SE Arizona are recognized as Globally Unique for their multiple ecosystems and consequent biodiversity. Three years ago, our dream of living within this unique environment came to fruition. Now, only to find that the area, returning to more natural conditions after its past mining destructiveness, might again be devastated, but this time by 1000 fold.

The cumulative effects of multiple mining projects already injurious to the habitat and consequent biodiversity, including endangered and threatened species, should be adequate to require this project to require an EIS. Not only will it devastate the landscape at the sites of road and drill site construction and operation, such as the Mexican Spotted Owl, but it will also impede the corridor for critical species traveling between Mexico and the US, such as jaguar and ocelot.

Water use and discharge is of great concern with its potential for deleterious or even lethal impact on the flora and fauna of the area (including Homo Sapiens residing in the area or within the watershed. We need to have a thorough study of the hydrology (including the groundwater system) in order to have any confidence that any mining operation or exploration should proceed. My feeling, especially with the changing of climate and potential for drought in this area, is that water should remain the #1 priority for human life to sustain itself within the area. We must protect our water resources at all costs. Water is worth much more than any mineral. You just can't drink rocks!

There are other concerns, including impacts on air quality (already declining), soils being exposed to toxic discharge or spills from trucks carrying hazardous chemicals, archaeological artifacts from past cultures.

Altogether, these concerns outlining significant environmental effects should be adequate to deny permits for the Sunnyside exploration. At the very least, they should require an EIS to thoroughly examine each one.