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First name: GEORGE

Last name: GUMERMAN

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a hunter and angler who frequently camps and hunts in the Patagonia Mountains on the Coronado National forest. I hunt whitetail deer, jack rabbit, mearns quail, dove and duck. I believe that because of the adverse impacts to the wildlife that I hunt, the San Antonio Drilling project should not be categorically excluded and that an EIS should be performed. Scientific studies indicate that jack rabbits are on the decline in the Southwest. How will drilling, in combination with impacts from other mining operations (e.g., 32 South) affect the Jack Rabbits already in decline? More drilling in the area will also affect migratory birds including dove and ducks. Doves and ducks depend on water sources. With South 32 impacting water the cumulative effect on water will be detrimental to migratory birds. As migratory birds they are federally protected. Without an EIS, the impacts of more drilling are unknown. Mearns quail are on a decline in the area. With poor monsoon rains the last two years the population is declining. Drilling activities will likely increase their decline. Without an EIS we don't know how they will be affected. The subspecies of whitetail deer in the Patagonia Mountains are especially susceptible to disturbance. Arizona Game and Fish and the Audubon Society can provide data these (and other) species. The current mining activities and multiple proposed mining activities need to be evaluated because they have cumulative impacts on wildlife. Because I camp and hunt in the area the impacts will affect my access as a public land owner and my enjoyment of the area. Multiple generations of my family hunt and camp in the area-the effects of the mining affect my cultural traditions. With COVID 19 more and more people are using the Coronado NF and their use will be impacted. Thank you for considering my comments.