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Comments: I am strongly opposed to any exploratory drilling in the San Rafael Valley. Although I understand that the Forest Service must consider this proposal, I feel the Plan of Operation (PoO) submitted by IC Exploration, LLC is inadequate in several areas. Specifically, the PoO does not address impacts to residents who will clearly see and hear the operations, it marginalizes impacts to wildlife, it understates the amount of land that will be disturbed by the drilling, and is apparently written to hide the company that is the source of funding for this exploratory drilling - Barksdale Resources, a Canadian mining firm.

Impacts to Residents: No mention is made of the people who will be impacted by the drilling. The visual resource section of the PoO excludes residents. Also, the use of the county roads by IC Exploration will impact residents through closures and increased noise and dust. No mention of these impacts is included in the PoO. Also, these roads are in constant use by Border Patrol agents. How will the drilling impact the Border Patrol's ability to do their job?

Wildlife: The PoO summarily dismisses impacts to wildlife, even though the PoO clearly states that no studies have been done. How can any impacts be evaluated without knowing what wildlife is actually there?

Land Disturbance: I believe the PoO inadequately addresses the amount of land that will be disturbed. The PoO states that no blading or grading of roads will occur. However, the roads into the area where the drilling is proposed are barely passable. How can we be expected to believe that water trucks, personnel vehicles, fuel vehicles, and a drill rig can be brought to the area without altering the existing (primitive) road system?

Transparency: This operation is funded by Barksdale Resources (Vancouver, BC Canada). They are ultimately responsible for all aspects of the project, and yet they are not even mentioned in the PoO. IC Exploration, LLC is apparently a shell company formed by Barksdale to hide the true source of the funding for the project. Also, there is another company - Arizona Standard - mentioned in the PoO with no explanation of their relationship to Barksdale or IC Exploration, LLC. Who will actually be held responsible for impacts associated with this project?