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Comments: To whom it may concern, and I hope it concerns all.!!

In 1993 the CAVE CREEK CANYON PROTECTION ACT. House bill HR 843 was put in place, that, granted the town of Portal in the Chiricahua mountains an exemption from a Canadian drilling comp. from drilling for minerals, because of the biodiversity of the animals and flora and fauna there. This was brought into effect by the MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, THROUGH THE DEPT OF THE INTERIOR, by an act of Congress. I do believe that the F.S. falls under the DOI. There is now a scientific research facility there. Now let us look at DUQUESNE / WASHINGTON CAMP Area, after living in this area for 15 years, there has been many sightings of rare and endangered species. It is not often spoken of because of trophy hunters, I personally know of 2 sightings of A PAIR OF BLACK JAGUARS, through my property, in the light of what is now transpiring it's perhaps time to let the "cat out of the bag " so to speak. Two months ago my wife and I were driving one of our interior roads, as we approached a gate we had to stop to open, and w0ft. Away sitting on a rock, was what we thought was a round faced Bobcat, it saw our approach and left, 2 seconds later it returned to the rock and sit to have another look at us, a common sight we presumed until it got up from its sitting position, and slowly walked away, it had a long bushy tail like a fox, A JACARANDA a very animal indeed. We have seen MEXICAN GREY WOLVES, also THE SPOTTED OWLS, YELLOW BILLED COCKOO. The Santa Cruz river is the only river in Southern AZ. that.

has the last Gilia Top Mino. We are a biodiversity area harboring some of the rarest animals on the Earth. All these animals need water, that is now in jeopardy from global warming also the disastrous Impact of the drilling and mining from Foreign companies.who come and destroy our beautiful and pristine San Raphael Valley with a proposed 6,500 acre open pit mine. The proposed mining of the minerals is not deep, when I asked the representative from Barksdale, who deep are open pit mines his reply, sometimes 5,000ft. What will happen to the water shed that we all rely on, for the people, the the cattle, the wild for survival. We have only had 6 1/2 inches of rain this monsoon season. Normally we have 24 inches. All the wells in the area are low, the earthen tanks for the cows are all but dry. The Santa Cruz river is not flowing where we usually see water. here. Are we becoming like California. Where ground water aqua fur, is being diminished and deeper and deeper wells are being dug, cost up to 250,00 a well, this is happening in Wilcox now.!!!!

Do not let these drilling and mining companies ruin our water supply our animals,our beautiful environment , this is one of three high plains left in this country. we plead for the N.F.S. To protect our lives,our property and keep this area clean, for us and generations to come.

Is it not the F.S. Duty under the organic act of 1897 to protect these public lands and safeguard or water.

Rick Pitrone.