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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This STA sale to Arizona Minerals, Inc. should not be approved.

The sale is for the exclusive benefit of the Hermosa mining project. It will assist the mine's operations in an ecologically sensitive area and will likely result in a significant degradation of the area. The Patagonia Mountains are home to many threatened and endangered species. The FS must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the sale's impacts on all affected threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats.

Additionally, if this sale goes through, access to, use, and enjoyment of National Forest land by the public will be unduly restricted. The Patagonia Mountains have long been used for public recreation by AZ residents and many others who travel here to enjoy the natural beauty, wildlife, hiking, mountain biking, off-roading, and camping that the area offers.

Furthermore, the Patagonia Mountains multiple Indigenous groups have inhabited the area for thousands of years. The FS should first consult with all Indian Tribes that attach religious or cultural significance to the sites prior to considering the sale.

I would like to also refer to comments filed by Patagonia Resource Alliance and include those comments as issues of concern for me.