

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/27/2021 5:13:13 PM

First name: Logan

Last name: Miller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Coronado National Forest,

I am expressing my opposition to the Small Tracts Act sale of these National Forest lands to Arizona Mineral Inc. This land transfer will harshly affect the Patagonia Mountains, which provide critical habitat for the animals of southern Arizona, including many endangered species such as the jaguar. The Forest Service must work with the US Fish and Wildlife to make sure that this sale will not impact these endangered species.

As a long time user of the Patagonia Mountains, having grown up and continuing to live in Tucson, I am deeply worried about the impact this transfer will have on recreation. Both I, and people from all around the world, come to these mountains to recreate and enjoy the diverse wildlife that occurs here. It is an important birding area, and is situated near the Arizona Trail. Giving this land away to a private company undermines the public use of these lands, lands that are supposed to remain in the hands of the public. I have spent many winters bike touring the Patagonia Mountains and frequently see turkeys, coatis, javelina and many rare birds. However, I have seen the impact on animals as heavy mining trucks drive the roads, cutting off coati families and disturbing them through the increased sound and dust pollution.

Finally, I would like to add that these lands are the unceded territories of many different indigenous groups. Failure to consult and receive permission from these groups would be a moral failure on the part of the Forest Service. To not thoroughly survey the area for potential religious and culturally significant sites would be an erasure of these peoples' histories.