

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2021 9:14:51 PM

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Comments: The CNF Service is pursuing the sale of this land to Arizona Minerals, Inc based on the erroneous claim that said sale should be considered "categorically excluded" from being subject to an EA and/or and EIS because the land and/or land use will remain "essentially the same" after the sale is completed.

However, the proposition that the land/use of land in question will remain "essentially the same" after being transferred from CNF ownership to AMI ownership is patently false. Currently, the land in question is part of the Coronado National Forest, land which is currently preserved, protected and available for public use and recreation purposes. If this STA sale were to go through, the land in question would then belong to a mining company which is currently developing a large-scale industrial mining operation on the land neighboring and contiguous to the CNF parcels in question. The burden is on the CNF to prove that the land/land use will actually not change in any meaningful way -- because as it stands, it is rather embarrassingly obvious that AMI's use of the land and the general public's recreational use of the land is strikingly and essentially different.

Furthermore, the CNF is already aware that AMI's Hermosa mining project will be undertaking what is termed a "dewatering" of the area, and will be pumping approximately 1.6 billion gallons of water a year, over the course of at least 4 years, of precious groundwater from the Patagonia Mountains and then dumping that same (yet now polluted and treated) water into Harshaw Creek. The potential effects of this "dewatering" and dumping have been studied and published and the probability that the surrounding land, plants, animals and humans will be significantly -- and negatively -- affected has been established. Thus, it appears as if the CNF is purposefully turning a blind eye to the information that they have concerning the harmful impacts that AMI's Hermosa mine project will have on the Patagonia Mountain region, when they assert that the sale of this CNF land will not substantially affect nor impair scene wildlife or the environment. In order to move forward with this sale, they must provide actual evidence that these effects and impairment will not result.

Additionally, prior to moving forward with the proposed STA sale, the CNF has seemingly failed to consult with any of the relevant Indigenous people groups who have long-standing historical relationships to this region, in order to actually determine that it is indeed the case that no historical, archaeological or cultural values will be "substantially affected or impaired". Consultation with any and all relevant First Nation peoples from the Patagonia Mountain region must be consulted on this matter before this STA sale is to be approved.