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Comments: Although I am a Commission for the AZ Game and Fish Department and a member of the Board of Directors for AZ State Parks and Trails, I am making this comment only as a concerned local citizen. I am concerned that any project that has "green energy" impacts gets fast-tracked through the government with little concern about the potential negative impacts on the environment. As a result, I've seen wind farms developed in the middle of raptor migration corridors (thus killing thousands of hawks) and miles of pristine desert destroyed for solar farms. I'm concerned that because manganese is a critical mineral, we may do the same thing to the Patagonia mountains. I am not against mining and I spent 37 years in the Army, much of that in combat, so I understand national security. I don't understand, however, why we have to drain the water out of these mountains to extract the minerals. After all, we mine minerals under the sea, so the technology certainly exists for this sort of mining. I am sure that South 32 will respond that the use of this technology would be too expensive and may render the project not viable. If that's the case, I don't think they should be allowed to proceed. The mine is not limited to vertical shafts but will instead include horizontal and/or diagonal tunnels under vast areas of public land. South 32 intends to pump all of the water out of this "cone of depression" and then release it into Harshaw Creek. That plan will not recharge the water under thousands of seeps and springs that support all of those unique plants and animals. In effect, they are going to destroy the plant and animal life in these mountains for good. Please slow this project down until we have a clear handle on all of the impacts and a viable plan to mitigate those impacts before they execute.