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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I request before the Forest Service grants permission to South 32 to proceed with their Plan of Operation, a comprehensive water study be required to determine the impact of the continued release of water into Harshaw Creek and its effect on the designated Town's Watershed. Questions that need answered are how far out will wells be impacted by the dewatering of the mineshaft? Who will be responsible when wells in the surrounding area go dry? Will the water be contaminated as it makes its way down the creek above and below the surface picking up heavy minerals in what will become a continuous flow of water as it moves towards the town of Patagonia, requiring a water treatment plant to be built? Who will be legally responsible for these issues? The Forest Service or South 32?

I request the Forest Service require South 32 to head south to the border and not circle around to Highway 82 a major roadway and designated Scenic Route that supports the economies of Sonoita, Patagonia, and Nogales. Who will ensure the safety of transporting toxic minerals from point A to point B? Who will be legally responsible for maintaining safety on our roads? The Forest Service or South 32?

I request every effort and safeguard is put in place to protect the spotted owl and their nesting areas, the yellow-billed cuckoo, and the jaguar.

I request the Forest Service require a comprehensive study on the effects of manganese dust before issuing approval for this project. I request the study at a minimum include answering what are the base levels of exposure that can have an effect on human health? How will the manganese be produced and the dust contained in the mining operation so it is not released into the environment? How and where will the disposal of the highly toxic Manganese be stored? Who will be legally responsible for a manganese leak? The Forest Service or South 32?

I request that before approval is granted for this project a mechanism is put into place that will notify the public of any and all changes, spills, leaks, and mishaps. Possibly a warning system such as a siren as not all residents may have access to a smart phone with an emergency notification. This feels horrible but will become a reality with South 32 as our neighbor.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Tempest Smith