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Comments: The Patagonia Mountains are an essential habitat for a wide variety of wildlife that lives their lives on both sides of the International border.

The area is also home to ranchers who have made their living in the area for generations.

Animals and people have a basic need for water and that is even more essential in our desert environment.

This proposed mine will take a LOT of water and will move large amounts of soil and rock changing the flow of water and the ability of wildlife to move through the area and live there.

Yes, we need some of the materials that this mine would provide but the cost to the humans who live there and would like to continue to live there is a cost that is too high. The disturbance will alter water flow, aquifer levels and water quality.

The Colorado River is no longer a bottomless source of water for Arizona or the other states. Our aquifers are essential and I ask you to protect them and the water they contain for the good of all who live here.

Reta Rutledge