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First name: Lisa

Last name: Redpath

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Thank you for taking submissions from the public for Hermosa Critical Minerals Project #65668. I wish to state in clear and certain terms that I am completely opposed to any and all South32 operations in this area-and to the use of our public lands for that purpose- for the following reasons. 1. South32 has left a dangerous trail of destruction across the globe, including in its home country of Australia. 2. The Patagonia location is home to numerous endangered species and the operations will further threaten these and all forms of wildlife. 3. Manganese is highly toxic and has already lead to irreversible neurological disorders in communities worldwide. The medical community has yet to determine what a "safe" level of exposure is and South32 operations will set the stage for using the Santa Cruz County residents as guinea pigs for this measurement. 4. The automobile industry is moving away from electric vehicles that require manganese for its batteries. It is illogical to put the entire human and natural community in harm's way for an industry that likely will not have a future. 5. The area is known for strong eco-tourism. Why would you allow a foreign mining company to come in and destroy something that is working so well? 6. It should be noted that South32 management members do not reside in Santa Cruz County. They are keeping themselves and their families at a safe distance. 7. We do not yet have a good understanding of what the rising water levels will be from the 6.5 million gallons of water a day that will be dumped (dare I say wasted) every day. In addition to the ecological impact of this egregious act, we must also consider that the area is home to precious, ancient sites that could be destroyed by flooding. 8. Despite what South32 representatives state publicly about safety measures that will be in place, we cannot discount the inevitable accident that will happen. Human beings make mistakes and no amount of safety measures can prevent all accidents. (East Palestine, Ohio, for example.) 9. Overall, we do not know what this mining operation will do to our air and water. These are just some of the serious concerns that I have about South32 operations. I urge you to listen to the good citizens of Santa Cruz County and work to protect our precious and irreplaceable place we call home. Say no to South32 applications. - Dr. Lisa Redpath (Rio Rico, Arizona)