

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/1/2024 11:44:41 PM

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Comments: I am in favor of approving Hermosa Project by allowing use of USFS land to be used for additional tailings storage, additional drill sites to further the companies exploration process, improving existing roads and construction of additional roads to access the mine and allowing Unisource to install a 138 KV line over USFS land.

South 32 has shown good faith by rehabilitating old historic mines that were polluting the watersheds with toxic water from the overburden left over by earlier mining ventures. Spending over \$30 million to clean up the old mines is a plus for the environment.

To alleviate traffic issues within the town of Patagonia, South 32 has mapped out upgrading existing many USFS roads and building an additional 2 miles of new road construction. Upgrading existing roads will actually be a benefit to forest visitors. With the road upgrades, a visitor will not have to beat their vehicle up getting into the depths of the Patagonia Mtns. Then too, the roads will benefit fire suppression response into the area. Fire managers will be able to look at the area for future prescribe fire benefits.

By-passing Patagonia with an alternative road will reduce noise and vehicle use in the town.

South 32 has addressed reclaiming their tailings piles by stockpiling native soils that will later be used to cover the piles. This will speed up rehabilitation of the area. Then to prevent any subsurface run off from the tailings piles, South 32 has and will continue to line the bottom of the piles.

Allowing them to use additional USFS land will help them expand their operation. Using almost 500 acres of USFS land to meet their needs is a small price of allowing them to meet the needs of the Nation to mine critical minerals.

I do think that two Rapid Infiltration Basins - RIB- is not enough, into Alum and Harshaw Creeks. The two mentioned will not be able to handle a continuous infiltration into the area. The additional six RIBs will need to be used to alternate between the basins.

From those individuals who don't want any mines in their area I ask the question: If not here, then where do you think a mine should be located? Minerals occur where they are found. In order for our Nation to become less dependent on countries that are not necessarily our friends is a real plus. South 32 has gone the extra mile of working with the local population in trying to dispel the belief that the mine will be a disaster as has happened in other countries. I feel with the many mining safety guards we have in place, a multitude of watchdog agencies coupled with the air and water monitoring the project should be approved.