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First name: Tempest

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the approval of this project. However because of the National Forest's track record of approving mining projects over environmental protection I make the following comments/requests:

I request that before the Forest Service grants permission to S32 to proceed with their plan of Operation a comprehensive water study be performed. It should be determined how the continued discharge of water will effect the surrounding area. Will this water become contaminated as it picks up heavy metals in what is traditionally a seasonal creek, on its way into the Town's municipal watershed? Thus forcing the Town of Patagonia to build a water treatment plant to manage the contaminants. Who will be responsible for the outlying wells and water sources when this dewatering has the potential to affect its neighbors? How will this dewatering impact the forest in the area? Will it increase the impact of fire danger once the landscape becomes a dry desert?

Arizona is in a drought. When will water be designated as a critical resource and it become necessary to "mine" instead of throwing it away?

I request the Forest Service require S32 to exit their property through a route that heads South and avoids major roadways that support the local economies of Sonoita, Patagonia, Nogales, Rio Rico, Tumacacori, and Tubac. 300 plus trucks a day will devastate these communities.

I ask the Forest Service to require S32 to remain on their private land to the greatest extent possible, to maintain the natural environment and to protect the nesting areas of the spotted owl, the yellow-billed cuckoo, and the jaguar, all of whom are endangered.

I request the Forest Service before issuing approval for this project require a comprehensive study on the effects of Manganese dust. And to ensure that every safety mechanism is put into place to protect the public from exposure to this toxic substance.

Finally, I request a public warning system be installed to notify the surrounding areas should a spill or mishap occur that threatens the safety, health, and well-being of those in the area. I request this not be a phone notification on a smart device but a good old fashioned alarm system, a technology that does not require a critical mineral and therefore the destruction of our environment.

Thank you for your time,  
Tempest Smith