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Comments: As a regular visitor to the Patagonia area for 29 years, I am deeply concerned about the zinc and manganese mining project. The proposed access route and placement of high power transmission line would have an enormous negative effect on this beautiful area; home to an important variety of wildlife, and tourist accommodations which provide economic benefit and a widespread appreciation for the pristine nature of the Patagonia Mountains area. This project would impact conservation efforts and create eyesores and interruption of peaceful enjoyment of nature. Noise, air, and visual pollution would ensue.

To offset damage to the critical Sonoita Creek watershed and surrounding acreage with its abundance of important flora and fauna, I would suggest your consideration of an alternate route for construction traffic and placement of power lines. Forest Service roads (such as 49) and Border Patrol routes already exist which would provide access without significant disruption.

Thank you for considering public input regarding this matter. Negative impacts cannot be reversed.