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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the Hermosa Project in the Patagonia Mountains for many reasons. This comment will be focused on the impact on the wildlife that concerns me.

You claim to be studying the endangered and threatened species in the vicinity of the Hermosa Project but shouldn't we be concerned about all species of animals, birds, reptiles and insects that live in the Patagonia Mountains? They will all be affected by the dewatering, the noise, the pollutants in the air and water as well as the increase in traffic, especially heavy truck traffic.

I was driving home to Rio Rico from Patagonia the other day at about dusk when 2 coatimundis crossed Hwy 82 right in front of me. I slowed down and they made it across but there was a third coatimundi that hesitated and crossed after I went by. I noticed a semi truck behind me going way too fast and worried that the last coatimundi would be run over. What will happen when the heavy truck traffic on that road is tripled or even quadrupled? There is no way that those drivers will care about wildlife on the road. Many birds are killed when they are focusing on catching prey and crash into high profile vehicles which will definitely be more of a problem once the Hermosa Project is in full operation. It breaks my heart when I think of how many animals and birds will be killed by the 24/7 traffic going to and from the mine.

How many animals, birds and bats will be displaced because of the constant noise and activity, the drying up of the springs and the landscape and the increase in traffic just to name a few? Where will the wildlife and birds go? Where will they stop when migrating? It seems that mine activity is occurring in almost all of our natural areas these days. Is this really the priority of the USFS? You really need to change your name then. Why isn't your priority to protect our natural areas and our wildlife? Once the ecosystems that support the wildlife are gone, we won't be able to get them back.

This process needs to be slowed down and we need more time to look at the Hermosa Project POO before we are required to comment. At the very least, the POO needs to be in Spanish. This comment period needs to be extended to 90 days. There is too much at stake here to rush this through.