

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2024 6:16:01 PM

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Organization:

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Comments: My husband and i moved to Patagonia twenty five years ago, and are deeply disturbed by the impending changes that will result if the Hermosa Mine is allowed to proceed. My primary concern is water: how much of our dwindling precious resource will be used by the mine and forever lost, and the quality of the water they recharge into the mountains. Water flows down hill. Our mountains aquifers are among fractured rock. The water used and treated by mine will make its way to places we cannot identify. For example, we live on property with our own well. How will we be compensated if our water supply is lost or contaminated? I also share the other concerns of community members, our governing bodies, and experts: the damage to our fragile, unique, ecosystem and its plants and animals; the danger and annoyance of trucks carrying toxic manganese, the quality of our air, the economic effect on tourism (especially eco-tourism). Before any further damage is done, studies need to be performed to understand the likely and not-so likely but possible impacts, and what mitigation will be done by South 32 if they proceed.