

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/10/2024 9:12:38 AM

First name: Alice

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Growing up in the Patagonia-Sonoita area, I have an acute awareness of the water instability and uncertainty in the area, having been impacted multiple times over the years by a drop in water levels. I have always appreciated the local wildlife, but as I have gotten older, I also appreciate the area for its massive ecological role as a pocket of unique diversity. I am concerned about the effect of the large-scale open-pit mining that is being pursued in the area by the South32 Hermosa project and other mining companies on the local environment and the wider-reaching impacts that damage to this critical habitat will cause. I do not support this sort of operation being conducted in the region, and ask that the Forest Service carefully consider the risks that this project poses to the local ecology and the greater impact that may have on sustaining global biodiversity which are being articulated by scientists and other experts.