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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hermosa Mine EIS scoping process. I built a house in Rio Rico near Sonoita Creek in 2006 after visiting the area a few years earlier. I chose to live in Sant Cruz County due to the natural beauty, incredible biodiversity, and relaxed pace of life. I would never have chosen to live in Rio Rico if I knew that such a large-scale mining operation would be approved in the future. The Patagonia Mountains and the town of Patagonia, and Santa Cruz County will be irreversibly changed if this mining operation goes forward as proposed.
I am especially worried about increasing air and water pollution plus a huge increase in truck traffic in the county. The EIS needs to thoroughly evaluate the impacts of this project including where the processing and remote-control management sites will be located.
What are the chances that Sonoita Creek and Patagonia Lake, and other downstream locations will be contaminated? There have been in the past extreme flooding events in the county, and the likihood of these are predicted to increase in the future. The EIS needs to consider the worst possible scenarios in this analysis for both flooding and fire events.

 I am also concerned over the proposal to dewater the aquifer in the Patagonia Mountains. Water shortages have already occurred in areas of Arizona. The effects of the mine on both ground and surface water on both public and private lands in the county needs to be analyzed thoroughly by outside, unbiased experts.

Please do not depend on South 32 for providing expert opinion for your analysis. They are obviously good at a PR campaign but short on providing adequate details for the public which is financing this EIS.   This project will decrease the quality of life for both humans and wildlife in this special part of the world. The EIS needs to describe impacts in detail. If it does, it will be obvious that this project should not go forward as proposed.