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First name: Leslie

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

For this foreign mine to come in and ruin a biodiversity hot spot that also provides water and recreation to people near by makes no sense at all. Mining ruins groundwater FOREVER. That is big word and you will have that ruin on your conscience if you do not stop this madness.

The water will be pumped from cracks and crevices deep within the Patagonia Mountains - from where it is very unlikely to ever be replenished. While we understand South32 Hermosa has developed a groundwater model to inform its proposed operations, the model is referenced in the MPO but has not been made available to the public for evaluation of impacts and exploration of pumping, discharge, and recharge scenarios. Without a review of a model or the underlying data and assumptions about subsurface geology, it is not possible to quantify the magnitude of impacts that the groundwater pumping, discharge, and recharge proposed in the MPO may have on regional water supplies, water quality, and critical habitats - including at the TNC Patagonia-Sonoita Preserve.

Please do the right thing!

Sincerely,

Leslie Ann Epperson