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Comments: The Sky Island of the Patagonia Mountains is part of the one of the most biodiverse areas of North America. The Patagonias should be responsibly protected by agencies of the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture rather than providing industrial mining to destroy the total biodiversity of the area due to industrial mining.

S32 has cleared hundreds of acres of patented land at the Hermosa mine site within the Harshaw and Alum Watersheds, destroying valuable assets of habitat to endangered and threatened species.

S32 has continually been uncooperative and opaque concerning true objectives and sharing of information, claiming most requested information to be proprietary.

To continue to allow S32 to push an agenda of destruction, the federal and state agencies need to make a stand of responsibility, to bravely hold S32 to protect the health and safety of our environment, our biodiversity and our community.

All of the Sonoita Creek Watershed is impaired. Impaired by metals by natural sources but mostly by legacy mining. I appreciate the partial mitigation the USFS has done on Mansfield, Temporal, and Harshaw Watersheds with taxpayer dollars. However, much more must be done before USFS allows industrial mining in the Sonoita Creek Watershed.

The present situation by S32 and the USFS is untenable and criminal. The federal and state agencies must do authentic, honest and thorough studies of the watersheds within the Patagonia Mountains and the S32 Hermosa project.

A comprehensive water study, updated and regular total maximum daily loads on affected watersheds, and reassessment of wildlife in the affected area should be done.

data and a database must be established and assessed before any mining action moves forward.

A comprehensive agreement must be established to mitigate, protect and restore the affected watersheds before any allowances to S32 is permitted.

S32 is moving forward, destroying hundreds of acres of patented land, running heavy trucks on county, state and federal roads at will, drawing down millions of gallons of water at will and more.

What will happen to the area, when trillion gallons of water each week are withdrawn and dumped into Harshaw Creek (within the Patagonia Municipal Supply Watershed), above the town of Patagonia aquifer. Who will provide water to the 130 springs within the cone of depression that the area biodiversity depends on.

Other threats are the traffic, roads, health, safety, protection, preservation, mitigation, restoration and more that the USFS has obviously been irresponsibly allowing the destruction of our public lands.

Robert Proctor