

Diane Ensign

Our family owns property in Patagonia & we know it's critical to deny the Mine Hermosa Permit No. AZ0026387. It would absolutely harm the Patagonia area as 1 of Az. sky island regions that is 1 of the most biodiverse on our planet. Within our Patagonia mountains are aquifers that feed Sonoita creek (that runs continuously) & forests, grasslands, & riparian cienegas with rare and diverse birds. People from not only the U.S. but other countries as well come to Patagonia because of its reputation for BIRDPWATCHING. If this mine is allowed then Sonoita Creek & the groundwater WILL BE POLLUTED which obviously will harm all the animal, plant, birdlife & us who live & work & visit Patagonia. It's imperative to protect this groundwater & Sonoita Creek.

Please deny this Australian mining company, South32, to extract heavy metals from our Patagonia mountains & ultimately pollute & destroy the aquifer there & thus Sonoita Creek. Obviously the mine would harm everyone in Patagonia & those who benefit from the tourists coming for birding or the atmosphere of a small town. In order to access the deposits, The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has issued the mine permits that allows them to pump over six million gallons of water each day from the aquifer and discharge it into Harshaw and Alum creeks, both of which lead to Sonoita creek.

Please do not allow this to happen. It would bring tragic results to everyone & all living things in the Patagonia area & eventually get in our Patagonia drinking water. Many years ago, our dad gave Patagonia the land where its drinking water reservoir sits.

PLEASE ADEQ reject this permit in order TO PRESERVE PATAGONIA, our precious Sky Island with its abundance of life & water resource, & our family as well as the other people in the area.

This permit needs to be denied.

We are planning to build on our property in Patagonia (above the high school & near the reservoir) & if the mine is allowed our plans would be ruined.

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