

Julie Gustafson

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

Please deny South32's Hermosa permit (#AZ0026387) for discharge of mine water into Harshaw and Alum creeks. The impacts are unacceptable amid the already unprecedented challenges to local wildlife as a result of climate change.

Dropping the groundwater level in an area like this is highly destructive and permanently harmful and would negatively impact area springs and the flora and fauna, which evolved with them. It would likely forever change this landscape.

The water discharges would far exceed current, intermittent, base flows leading to severe erosion upstream, and excessive sediment loads downstream and again would forever change the biodiversity of this unique place.

While too many landscapes have been forever changed in name of profit - this is one we can and you should protect.

Again, please deny the permit for this project.

Thank you.