

# Richard Brown

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

I'm writing from out of state, because the Patagonia Mountains, their habitat, forests and watershed, are a national treasure, not just a gem of southeastern Arizona. As such, the Patagonia Mountains habitat warrants protection, not exploitation. This unique wilderness area already faces unprecedented stresses from global warming and the well-documented effects of escalating weather extremes such as excessive drought, flooding and wildfires. For this reason alone, I would ask you to reject the application and deny South32's Hermosa permit (#AZ0026387) for discharge of mine water into Harshaw and Alum creeks which would become an even more direct and destructive stressor.

I urge you to deny the permit for this project.

Sincerely,

Richard Brown

San Angelo, TX