

2075



"betsy mcgee"
<btrmcgee40@msn.com
>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc: <coyotes@cox.net>
Subject: comment on proposed Rosemont mine

03/25/2008 04:23 PM

See attached my comments on the proposed Rosemont mine.

Elizabeth McGee
PO Box 313
Patagonia, AZ 85624



btrmcgee40@msn.com betsy's rosemont.doc

I am completely opposed to the proposed Rosemont mine in the Santa Rita mountains by the Augusta Resource Corporation

- The Forest Service should NOT revise the Forest Plan to accommodate mining. The 1872 Mining Law does not require the Forest Service to revise the plan to accommodate mining.
- The Forest Service must make this process fair. Extend the comment period 30-60 days. Schedule additional meetings to work on the scope of the EIS. Schedule meetings for public comment in Vail and Sonoita, two communities which would sustain major, negative impacts from the proposed mine. What is the Forest Service's big rush to push this project through?
- The Rosemont Valley is heavily used by mountain bikers, hikers, bicyclists, hunters, and off-highway vehicles. If the mine were allowed, recreational use would be forced to move to already heavily used areas, decreasing the quality of recreational experiences.
- Any economic benefits of the mine will be offset by the negative impacts to tourism-related businesses dependent on the area's scenic beauty.
- Why would we want to give a sweetheart deal to a Canadian company which in essence gives away the "family jewels" for a few loaves of bread.

2076



"FRED MC*GEE"
<fgmcgee@msn.com>
03/25/2008 04:19 PM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc: <coyotes@cox.net>
Subject: proposed Rosemont mine

Attached are my objections to the proposed Rosemont mine.

Fred McGee
PO 313
Patagonia, AZ 85624



fgmcgee@msn.com rosemont mine.doc

I attended the Forest Service-Rosemont's non-meeting in Patagonia March 20, 2008. Meetings in the future should allow verbal comment and opinion by the public. One-sided presentations waste both your time and money and the public's.

I am very opposed to the existence of an open-pit mine in the Santa Rita Mountains for these reasons:

- Possible release of potentially toxic heavy metals and chemicals into ground and surface waters draining into Tucson area water supplies, and impacting nearby riparian areas such as Davidson Canyon. There is every likelihood that the mine at Rosemont Ranch that is being proposed would dewater wells currently in use and imperil important wildlife habitat and future drinking water sources for residential use.
- The area currently has excellent air quality. Tailings and waste piles will be sources of dust, which prevailing winds will blow toward major new residential developments east of the Tucson basin. Air quality in the National Forest and surrounding residential areas will be degraded by both dust and truck exhaust associated with mine operations.
- Intensive development of the site as an open pit mine will result in loss of a significant portion of the wildlife habitat and movement corridor on the eastern side of the Santa Ritas. This would potentially impact endangered, threatened, and candidate species, in addition to priority vulnerable species or species of special concern.
- A recent study by the Sonoran Institute shows that a mine at Rosemont would have serious economic impacts to the surrounding communities. The report found: "if the proposed Rosemont mine operations displaced only one percent of travel and tourism-related spending in the region, the economic loss would be greater than the entire annual

payroll of the mine". Joe Marlow, senior economist with the Sonoran Institute.

2017



Steve_in_Arizona
<nitroxe2003@yahoo.c
om>
03/26/2008 09:11 AM

To: Comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us,
Joni.Jones@mail.house.gov
cc:
Subject: NEPA EIS Comments for Submission. (Madera Canyon at Risk?)

For NEPA Evaluation:

I have one comment (please acknowledge receipt of comment).

The foot-print of the Rosemont Mine is stated to come with in 4 miles of Madera Canyon; a world known birding area that harbors several rare species of birds; some endangered. The wetlands within Madera canyon are spring fed possibly sharing the same source as the springs within the proposed Rosemont Mine area.

Since these spring fed wetlands share the same water source will Madera canyon's wetlands suffer from the Rosemont mine; and, can we expect adverse effects on endangered wildlife?

The Tucson Board of Governors submitted information to the Federal Government regards endangered wildlife in the area of the Santa Cruz valley; this is the basis for a law being considered in Congress to withdraw the area from mining. The Board of Governors of Tucson considers our Madera Canyon area and the Sky Islands to be National Treasures that need protection.

Has Rosemont contracted biological population studies on all spices of endangered wildlife; and, can they say with certitude that their mine will not endanger the wildlife and International tourism to the Santa Cruz valley?

See attachment.

Dr. Stephen B. Chrisman (Retired Family Physician)
520-777-3502

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RESOLUTION NO. 2007-

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS TO WITHDRAW AREAS FROM MINING
AND MINERAL EXPLORATION**

WHEREAS, filling of mining claims, trespass, mineral extraction, and mineral exploration activities have become a significant threat to our conservation of natural landscapes, wildlife, water resources, and public health; and

WHEREAS, within the last two years, the County has had to commit taxpayer resources to opposing mineral exploration and mineral extraction activities on or adjacent to County natural reserves including Rancho Seco, Six Bar Ranch, Oracle Ridge properties, Bar V Ranch, and Cienega Creek; and

WHEREAS, the County has expended over \$50 million in County bond funds to purchase these properties for conservation; and

WHEREAS, these properties were purchased by Pima County to conserve federally endangered and threatened species, and prevent the future listing of vulnerable species as endangered or threatened; and

WHEREAS, even portions of the County's Tucson Mountain Park are still open to mineral entry and were subject to exploratory activities in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2007-15 on January 16, 2007 opposing the proposed Rosemont Mine in the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest, and requesting the withdrawal of certain areas from mineral entry; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2005-124 on June 7, 2005 opposing mining within County reserves and biologically sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, rapid population growth throughout Arizona, combined with significant tourism and economic development that is dependent on the natural beauty of this State, make the State incompatible with current mining practices and mining laws; and

WHEREAS, current mining practices and mining laws have resulted in inadequate and under-funded mitigation and reclamation in connection with mining activities; and

WHEREAS, inadequate and under-funded mitigation and reclamation have resulted in irreversible impacts to our native fish and wildlife, impacts to water quality and quantity, and visual blight; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of this County see few local tax benefits from mining and are instead left with the undue burden associated with air, water and visual pollution from previous mining activities; and

WHEREAS, mining has lead to public health concerns in Pima County, including impacts to ground water in and around the mines in Green Valley, and on Bureau of Land Management land known as Saginaw Hill; and

WHEREAS, in the case of Saginaw Hill, the Bureau of Land Management is left with the expense of assessing the public health impacts from mining activities that occurred historically on the property and remediating such impacts in order to protect public health; and

WHEREAS, 1,299,600 acres of Federal lands in Pima County, made up of the Ironwood Forest National Monument, Organ Pipe National Monument, Saguaro National Park, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Goldwater Gunnery Range, Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area, Rincon Wilderness Area, Mt. Wrightson Wilderness Area, Baboquivari Peak Wilderness Area, and Coyote Mountain Wilderness Area are already closed to mineral entry subject to existing valid rights at the time of designation; and

WHEREAS, withdrawing from mineral entry the federal lands within the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest in Pima County, excluding the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness Area which is already closed to mineral entry, would close an additional 52,000 acres to mineral entry; and

WHEREAS, withdrawing from mineral entry the remaining federal lands within the Coronado National Forest in Pima County, excluding wilderness areas and the Santa Rita Mountain Range, would close an additional 186,000 acres to mineral entry.

NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of all federal lands within the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest in Pima County.
2. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of the remaining federal lands within the Coronado National Forest in Pima County.
3. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of all County-owned natural reserves where the federal government owns the subsurface mineral rights.

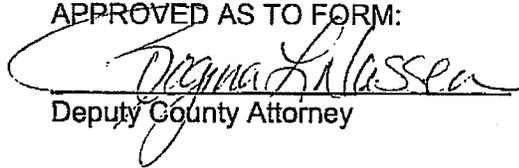
Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this ____ day of _____, 2007.

Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Deputy County Attorney



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

February 20, 2007

Protecting Pima County's Natural Resource Assets and Lands from Mining Activities

Background

The County has spent a considerable amount of public resources protecting our natural open space reserves from the threat of mining activities and, in particular, the filing of speculative mining claims for mineral exploration on County-owned public lands. Even our Tucson Mountain Park is subject to such threats. In 1981, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a notice for oil and gas exploration within Tucson Mountain Park. The County clearly opposed such exploration, and in a County letter by Gene Laos, then Director of Parks and Recreation, stated "In 1974 the people of this community voted overwhelmingly to outright purchase an additional 2,000 acres for Tucson Mountain Park just so this type of thing would not happen. We have literally spent millions of dollars restoring and revegetating the old mineral scars from the 1920-1950 and we are not about to sit idle and watch this whole sequence of events occur again." Tucson Mountain Park was established in 1929, and the United States Department of the Interior withdrew Tucson Mountain Park from mining and homesteading that same year. In 1959, a portion of the park was reopened to mineral entry by the Department of the Interior. The reopening, and prospect of mining operations in Tucson Mountain Park, caused an immediate explosion of public furor and outcry, which resulted in the withdrawal to mineral entry, and established the Tucson Mountain District of Saguaro National Park.

More recently, the history of our opposition to mining leases on State Trust land within Davidson Canyon has been well documented. Our opposition and concern, however, was unable to convince the State Land Commissioner not to issue an already expired mineral lease on State Trust property in a significantly sensitive and valuable ecosystem, Davidson Canyon (Figure 1). We continue to appeal the State Land Commissioner's decision. We are now also opposing an application for mineral extraction of mineral rights owned by the federal government under State leased property a few hundred yards away from the recently issued mineral lease by the State.

In 2005 we began retaining outside legal counsel with expertise in mineral rights to object to and fight mining claims filed on property acquired by the County for open space at Rancho Seco. In the case of Rancho Seco, it was determined that individuals locating claims on the County's property were more of a nuisance than a real threat due to limited mineral values in the area. Staff continues to have to monitor the situation. Mining activities on federal in-holdings adjacent to our acquired lands at Rancho Seco have caused considerable destruction of the natural landscape and potential environmental contamination (Figure 2). You will remember that during the acquisition hearings for Rancho Seco, individuals conducting mining activities on BLM parcels within Rancho Seco alleged that the property was a toxic waste dump. County testing of lands we acquired resulted in the County fencing off old mine tailings because of contaminants in the soil. We determined that levels of these contaminants were significant enough that public contact with the soil could have resulted in adverse health effects. BLM was notified of the

statements made by these individuals, and the County requested that BLM take appropriate action to ensure that any contamination in this area by these individuals be remediated. These individuals continue to conduct mining activities on federal lands adjacent to County lands.

Over the last year, our objections to the proposed Rosemont Mine in the Santa Rita Mountains within the Coronado National Forest were filed with the United States Forest Service and our Congressional delegation. The proposals for this mine would directly impact the County's preserves along Cienega Creek and Davidson Canyon by damming up Barrel Canyon, thus reducing flows to Davidson Canyon and Cienega Creek (Figures 3-5).

Just last week we were notified of a potential filing of mining claims and mineral exploration by BHP (the mining company responsible for the copper mine in San Manuel, see *Figure 6*, that ceased operations in 1999) on the County-owned Six-Bar Ranch in the San Pedro Valley, along a key tributary to the San Pedro River.

Filing of mining claims, trespass and mineral extraction or the mineral exploration activities associated with mining claims have become a major threat to our preservation of natural resources, a significant potential threat to public health, and a financial drain on taxpayers. A comprehensive approach is necessary to resolve these threats, manage the filing of speculative mining claims, and to mitigate the adverse effects of mineral extraction.

Legacy of Mining Activities in Pima County

Arizona has a long history associated with mining extraction of our mineral resources. Pima County has been the State's largest producer of copper from time to time. We have a number of other mining activities that have occurred throughout the State in the last 200 years. It is readily apparent that Arizona's rapid population expansion and urban growth, now the fastest growing state in the country, is not compatible with historic or continuing mineral extraction activities.

One of the largest issues associated with past mining activities is the lack of any meaningful reclamation or mitigation of adverse impacts experienced by local communities from these practices. Over 35,000 acres, an area almost twice the size of Tucson Mountain Park, have been or are being used for mineral extraction purposes in Pima County. Much of this land is idle open pits or tailings ponds not now producing any valuable minerals. To my knowledge there are no plans by any inactive or active mine, particularly an open pit copper mine, to attempt to restore the natural landscape through the removal of tailings, depositing the same in the existing open pit, and restoring the general natural landscape. There has been almost no meaningful reclamation of any open pit copper mine, or for that matter, any former large sand and gravel operation in Pima County.

Mining can have a profound effect on aquatic ecosystems. Although the extraction of minerals has a negative impact on the landscape, it is the processing of ore that greatly impacts aquatic resources. Most of the mining in Pima County is performed using open pit mines, which process the ore via a flotation process using water. The rejected materials from this process are then

discarded into tailings ponds where the water evaporates, leaving a large pile of mineralized materials. Possible impacts on aquatic habitats from mining include the reduction of water resources from increased groundwater pumping and the siltation of streams and reduced water quality due to runoff from the tailings piles.

Cocio Wash – Avra Valley

The loss of an entire native fish population along Cocio Wash in Avra Valley is a good example of the potentially damaging effects that mining can have on aquatic ecosystems. In 1967, an Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) biologist discovered the federally endangered Gila topminnow in the Cocio Wash, about 1.5 miles downstream of the Silverbell Mine (Figure 7). Several years later, in 1973, Arizona State University biologist W.L. Minckley informed the BLM that the endangered Gila topminnow occurred on a mix of federal and private lands. Minckley also found longfin dace and leopard frogs at the Cocio Wash site. The owner of the mine commissioned Dr. Minckley to study the effects of mine seepage on the downstream riparian community. Dr. Minckley noted that copper and lead were highly concentrated at the site, and that the seepage from the Silverbell Mine tailings may present long-term damage to the animals found at Cocio Wash.

In 1980, the longfin dace and leopard frogs had disappeared from the site, but the Gila topminnow remained. At the same time, green sunfish from a tailings pond at the mine had been washed downstream into Cocio Wash and topminnow numbers seemed low. Subsequent floods washed out the sunfish in 1981, and while the topminnow survived the floods, they could not survive the gray clay and siltation from the mine tailings that were washed into the Cocio Wash pools. BLM biologist Bill Kepner reported, "Our 1982 studies indicate that the Cocio Wash topminnow population is now extinct in that habitat due to recurrent mine spill and inundations by mine tailings." From 1973 to 1982, the site was heavily managed by BLM and AGFD. Despite having been protected by federal law, and having survived for thousands of years as a relic population, the combined management actions were not enough to protect the Cocio Wash drainage from the mine seepage and tailings deluge from the Silverbell Mine.

Cienega Creek – Clay Mines

As you know, Pima County has a long-standing interest in acquiring State Trust lands in the area to consolidate the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, established in 1986 by the Board of Supervisors. Since that time, the County has acquired certain State Trust lands in the vicinity, and more are identified for acquisition via the County's 2004 Bond Program.

The clay-laden runoff from active and abandoned mineral operations on State leased lands nearby pose a continuing threat to the ecological integrity of the Cienega Preserve by damaging native plant cover and soils. Another problem is the threat of non-native species entering the Preserve. This was the subject of a survey of one of the artificial ponds and impoundments created by mining by AGFD in 2002. AGFD found bullfrogs and bluegill sunfish in the claypit pond closest to Cienega Creek. Both of these species are considered highly detrimental to native aquatic species of Arizona.

Cienega Creek has been designated a Unique Waters of the State of Arizona. The Unique Waters designation confers the State's highest level of protection from degradation of water quality. The anti-degradation requirements state that no further surface water quality degradation which would interfere with or become injurious to existing uses is allowable.

The State Land Department has failed to take the measures needed to rectify the discharge of clay to the tributaries of Cienega Creek from the existing operations (Figure 8). Furthermore, State Land Department records indicate the State Land Department required restoration and damage bonds to be posted in the amounts of \$5000 per lease, amounts which are grossly inadequate relative to what was and still is needed to rectify problems at the sites.

Another problematic issue is the traffic created by the mines. In the past, haul trucks from mineral leases have exceeded load limits for County bridge structures. A stop-gap solution was the construction of a dip crossing at Mescal Wash. The dip crossing facilitates resource damage in the Preserve by unauthorized vehicular intrusions, particularly now that the Cienega Valley is being used by immigrant and drug traffic.

Pima Pineapple Cactus

The Pima pineapple cactus is a federally endangered species found in southern Pima County. Mining has resulted in the loss of hundreds of acres of potential habitat for this species. The various mines near Green Valley cover thousands of acres of formerly potential habitat. When the Mission Mine was expanded in the 1980s, dozens of Pima pineapple cactus were destroyed as mine tailings covered the cactus and the surrounding landscape (Figure 9)¹. Actions associated with mineral extraction, such as constructing roads, tailings piles, and settling or leaching ponds can also contribute to habitat loss and are expected to continue or increase throughout the range of the cactus.

Invasive Species

As a result of the changed and disturbed surfaces of a mining operation, many mining sites are colonized by invasive non-native species. Once established on-site, invasive species can spread into the natural surrounding areas. One species of particular concern in Pima County is buffelgrass. Buffelgrass chokes out native plants, and for ten months of the year, provides fuel for devastating fires that can destroy desert vegetation. The desert is not a fire-adapted ecosystem. Originally planted to stabilize slopes, buffelgrass is found on roadsides and on the tailings slopes of many of the Green Valley mines. The first known buffelgrass fire was in 1994, at the Duval Mine (Figure 10)².

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. August 20, 1993. "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Determination of the Endangered Status of the Plant Pima Pineapple Cactus." *Federal Register*. Final Rule. Vol. 58, No. 183. pp 49875

² Doster, Stephanie. No date. "Battling Buffelgrass." *Institute for the Study of Earth*. Accessed: <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/news/articles/buffelgrass.html>

Water Use

In 2005, water use for metal mining accounted for 10 percent of the total water use in the Tucson Active Management Area (AMA) or enough water to serve about 45,000 households for one year³. The agriculture sector used 30 percent, while the municipal sector used 55 percent and other industrial sectors used five percent of the water in the Tucson AMA⁴. A significant portion of the water extracted for metal mining comes from Phelps-Dodge's wells at Canoa Ranch. The groundwater pumping in the area lowers the water table, and affects the long-term viability of the riparian habitat.

Unlike the municipal sector, mines are not required to use or recharge CAP water or reclaimed water in the Tucson AMA to offset their groundwater pumping. State laws do not impose restrictions upon their groundwater use to protect nearby wells from excessive rates of depletion.

Bankruptcy

Mining is inherently risky, not only due to the nature of the global metals market, but also because contamination risks have been consistently underestimated by the industry. These risks sometimes mean even large mining companies can go bankrupt. In 2005, 106-year old ASARCO filed for bankruptcy, blaming environmental liabilities, including asbestos-related litigation⁵. The move allowed parent company Grupo Mexico to isolate the most profitable parts of the company from about \$1 billion in liabilities, including 19 Superfund sites. The Government Accountability Office said United States Environmental Protection Agency officials expect more such bankruptcies⁶.

ASARCO promised the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation that reclamation of the Mission Mine would be done. There is a \$10 million bond for reclamation on the reservation. The San Xavier District has tried to increase the bonds to get adequate financial assurance that reclamation will be done, but they have not succeeded. ASARCO's bankruptcy means that the promises to the tribe are just one liability among many that the bankruptcy courts and banks are negotiating across the country. Filing for protection under bankruptcy could mean that ASARCO will walk away from their obligations to the tribe and others.

³ An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, enough to serve two average households for one year. For 22,400 acre-feet, this is enough water to serve about 45,000 households for one year.

⁴ http://www.azwater.gov/WaterManagement_2005/Content/AMAs/TucsonAMA/TAMA_documents/2005_TAMA_Water_Use_Summary.pdf

⁵ Stauffer, Thomas, Joseph Barrios and Andrea Kelly, 2005. "Asarco seeks bankruptcy protection", Arizona Daily Star, August 11, 2005.

⁶ Blumenthal, Les, 2006. Asarco leaves legal heartburn. The News Tribune. March 20th, 2006. Accessed at <http://www.wncja.org/documents/news/2006-3-20%20News%20Tribune%20-%20Asarco%20leaves%20legal%20heartburn.doc> on January 30, 2007.

1872 Mining Law

The landscape of the western United States is littered with mining claims that survive indefinitely, whether mining occurs or not. The free access to minerals on state, private, county and federal lands under the 1872 Mining Law makes it very difficult to assure land is protected or managed. The 1872 Mining Law also makes it possible for individuals to "lock up" access to the mineral estate, even when there is no real intent to mine.

There is a long history of abuses of the 1872 Mining Law by individuals who have no intention to mine. For instance, in the 1970s, a person named Merle Zweifel filed claims on 600,000 acres of land along the future route of the Central Arizona Project. While he reportedly acknowledged that he would never actively explore for minerals there, Zweifel did apparently make money filing nuisance claims⁷. The federal government had to sue Zweifel to clear the claims placed on the five billion-dollar Central Arizona Project.

In a similar manner, claims were placed for iron ore in the 1970s on Casas Adobes Estates, a subdivision in Tucson. After a costly court battle with the surface owning residents, the claims were successfully contested. Eventually Congress withdrew large areas around Tucson and Phoenix from mineral entry to prevent a recurrence of spurious claims on otherwise valuable lands⁸.

Management Challenges

Currently at Tucson Mountain Park, we have an estimated 100 remnants of mining exploration. Most of these are small exploration holes with small waste piles. About a dozen involve a mining shaft. Currently, three different abandoned mines are routinely monitored for bat population status in Tucson Mountain Park and two have vandal proof gates installed.

Abandoned mines pose a number of challenges for our management activities. First, they present immediate public hazards. In almost every case the public routinely ignores signage, fencing and even gate barriers to explore the shafts. This is an ongoing concern and management activity. Also, open exploration pits pose similar hazards for cross country hikers, equestrian riders or mountain bikers.

In some cases the mine waste associated with exploration sites may pose environmental hazards. We have situations on several open space properties, including Rancho Seco, where after environmental testing, the area around a site has been fenced to restrict public use as a

⁷ B. Newman, "Never Mined: Merle Zweifel Claims Acres of Mineral Land, But What is He Up To?" Wall Street Journal, Jan. 20, 1972, in Leshy, John. *The Mining Law. Resources for the Future.* Washington, D.C. p.79

⁸ John Lacy, "Conflicting Surface Interests: Shotgun Diplomacy Revisited," *Proceedings of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute*, vol. 22 (1976) in Leshy, John. *The Mining Law. Resources for the Future.* Washington, D.C. p.80

precautionary action. This also can lead to impacts to localized watersheds and water courses. If there is milling or processing activity associated with abandoned mines, the potential for airborne, surface and subsurface contamination increases. Costs for testing and fencing can easily run over \$15,000 to \$20,000 for an area of mining activity of less than two or three acres. Formal remediation can run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, or more.

One situation that is seldom discussed as a product of mining activity is that historic mining locations are natural attractions to current weekend miners or rock hounds. Depending on the type of mineral being sought, some sites attract continued and repeated exploration and even limited mining activity because of the presence of past activity. Consequently, some sites never get a chance to restore naturally.

When trying to close mine shafts we also encounter significant costs. If the mine has any historic presence of use we need to do historic surveys. All shafts need to be evaluated for biological values, especially for bats, and special status species under the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. A simple shaft can require \$5,000 to \$7,000 just for the baseline survey needs. Depending on the results, the shaft may be fenced, gated, filled in or other approaches to closure appropriate for the location and hazard.

Formal gating of a shaft could run \$10,000 to \$15,000 depending on size, complexity of the gating system and necessity to accommodate bat/wildlife use. This is also if the location allows motorized vehicles access to the shaft. If gating items and personnel need to be flown in the price can double.

Public Health Risks

Active copper mines release other toxic substances in the course of crushing and concentrating the ore-bearing rock. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Toxic Release Inventory indicates that Phelps-Dodge's Sierrita Mine near Green Valley released 1053 pounds of mercury, and 1,243,048 pounds of lead, in 2004 (Figure 11). The Mission Mine, operated by ASARCO, a subsidiary of Grupo Mexico, emitted 1,211,184 pounds of lead in 2004. It is located near Sahuarita. Over 100 miles of streams in Arizona are considered impaired by excessive copper, which can be toxic to aquatic organisms. Arizona's mines are the largest known sources of impairments for rivers and streams⁹.

Processing methods for copper can enhance the concentration of naturally occurring radioactive materials coming from mines. EPA has compiled data regarding the concentration of radioactive substances in the Arizona copper belt. The results show that certain common mining practices can concentrate soluble pollutants such as uranium and thorium in groundwater¹⁰. Elevated

⁹ National Assessment Database, Environmental Protection Agency.

¹⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1999. Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials in the Southwestern Copper Belt of Arizona. Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, EPA 402-R-99-002.

levels of uranium have been detected in groundwater at Phelps-Dodge's mines near Green Valley. EPA and ADEQ are looking into the issue and trying to get Phelps-Dodge to respond.

High levels of sulfate and other non-toxic salts have entered groundwater in Green Valley from the Sierrita Mine. There is no enforceable health standard for sulfate, but it can cause problems with taste and digestion. As a result of concern expressed by Green Valley residents, Phelps-Dodge is providing a temporary replacement for two wells in the sulfate contaminant plume owned by Community Water in June 2005 until a permanent solution is developed and implemented.

Many of the mining facilities also have the potential to generate large amounts of dust (Figures 12-15). Such dust, or PM10, is one of the most serious air quality health concerns in Pima County and can cause a variety of health problems, including breathing difficulties, respiratory pain, reduced lung function, weakened immune system, increased severity of acute bronchitis and asthma, heart attacks and premature death (1 to 8 years).

Pima County has been interested in acquiring the BLM's surplus 540-acre Saginaw Hill property for park purposes since the 1980s because of its excellent location in a growing region of the County, but has been unable to do so because the property includes the toxic remnants of mining activities that began in the late 19th Century and continued into the 1950s (Figures 16-17). A limited environmental assessment conducted for Pima County in 1988 found problematic levels of a number of metals on the Saginaw Hill property, including aluminum, cadmium, copper, lead, and zinc. Acidic vapors were also noted on the site, and a variety of physical hazards were also present, including adits, shafts, test pits, tailings piles, and slag dumps.

A 2005 study conducted by the BLM at Saginaw Hill detected several chemicals of concern (COCs) on the property, including arsenic, lead, antimony, copper, mercury and thallium. The study found that "Concentrations of these metals in waste material significantly exceed all risk-based guidelines and therefore pose a potential threat to human health and the environment." In addition, groundwater is contaminated in the direct vicinity of one of the property's mining sites, raising concerns about impacts to the surrounding area's drinking water. The BLM is actively pursuing the remediation of the site, but even the most bare-bones solution is expected to cost more than \$2 million, and its ultimate efficacy remains in question.

Past Mitigation and Reclamation Inadequate

Arizona state law requires mines to rehabilitate some of the land surface damaged by mining. But the law allows companies to determine the reclamation costs, which guarantees the costs will be underestimated. In addition, the state does not require the company to put up physical assets, cash, bonds or fully funded insurance policies. The State accepts "corporate guarantees," which are essentially the company's promise to pay. Bankruptcy can mean that taxpayers are left with a company's unfunded reclamation liabilities.

State laws prohibit counties from exerting authority over the mine reclamation costs or activities. In 2006, legislation (HB 2317) was passed to prohibit counties from requiring or regulating reclamation of mines. Counties were previously prohibited from passing zoning ordinances regulating or prohibiting mining.

Pima County is assisting with reclamation efforts. Since 1998, Pima County has worked with ASARCO to build soil and revegetate the Mission Mine waste piles through the use of high-quality biosolids. The University of Arizona's Water Quality Center has been monitoring and evaluating the environmental and health impacts related to the mine tailings reclamation with biosolids. Rapid revegetation of mine tailings is possible with a combination of biosolids and native grass seedings, even without irrigation. Sites revegetated in 1998 and 2000 still have a higher percentage of cover under non-irrigated conditions than is typical for undisturbed Sonoran desert scrub (Figures 18-19)¹¹.

While the County's biosolids might help, they are but a "drop in the bucket" of unfunded mining reclamation and mitigation needs. ASARCO's estimated liability for the Mission Mine reclamation and cleanup is around \$415 million, and the land surface from which native cover has been greatly disturbed or removed entirely covers around 11,300 acres.

ASARCO started the Mission Mine near Sahuarita in the 1950s. By 1959, ASARCO had received a lease issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to extend their operations on to the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Many environmental laws were passed by Congress in the 1970s, but the federal government has not successfully imposed these laws upon this mining operation. To date, there is no approved mining plan or reclamation plan for the portion of the mine on tribal land, nor is there an aquifer protection permit¹². The tribe is concerned about the sulfate groundwater contaminant plume and movement of tailings downstream by air and surface water.

Strategies to Protect the Natural Ecological Resources of County-Owned Property and Protect the Public Health from Adverse Impacts Due to Mineral Exploration and Mining

There are several strategies the County is undertaking to protect natural open space reserves owned by the County and others in Pima County, as well as to address public health concerns and protect local taxpayers.

1. The County has provided the State Land Department with recommendations on how to administratively reform their mining application review process so that impacts to the value of adjacent State Trust lands are better considered, as well as expanding the environmental review process to match the federal process.

¹¹ Pima County Wastewater Management Department, 2006. Pima County Green Valley BNRD Biosolids Land Application, Mine Tailings Reclamation at ASARCO's Mission Complex, April 2006.

¹² There is an IGA between BLM and the State which in theory allows the state to require an APP on tribal lands.

2. The County continues to pursue an appeal of the approval of the Davidson Canyon mineral leases by the State Land Commissioner.
3. The County continues to be actively involved in reviewing and making recommendations on mining applications at both the state and federal level. This includes the proposed Rosemont Mine on Forest Service land in the Santa Ritas.
4. The County is pursuing Congressional withdrawal from mining of certain lands via our Congressional delegation.
5. The County intends to be more involved in the long-term land use planning of lands associated with mining, so that the lands can be planned for an economically beneficial use post mining.
6. The County is cooperatively working with the University on reclamation projects such as the use of biosolids.
7. The County will continue to encourage compensatory acquisition of lands to offset the irreversible losses that come with digging up the land surface through open pit mining. Off-site land acquisitions funded by the mining industry should help build the Conservation Lands Systems for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

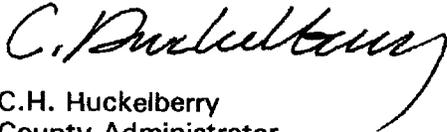
Summary and Recommendations

In summary, current mining practices and current mining laws are not compatible with the rapidly growing population in this County, the conservation of our diverse sky islands, rare riparian areas, Sonoran Desert habitats, and our strong tourism industry. The legacy of mining in Pima County has negatively impacted our natural open space, public health, and the taxpayers financially. The County has been proactive in addressing these issues, to the extent that we can, through comments to agencies that regulate and authorize mining in Pima County.

Congressman Raúl Grijalva will be holding a hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2007, in the Board of Supervisors hearing room. The hearing will be on behalf of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, which Congressman Grijalva chairs, and the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. The hearing will focus on the proposed mining operation on the Rosemont Ranch and adjoining National Forest lands, and on the 1872 Mining Act generally.

In preparation for this hearing, I respectfully recommend that the Board approve the attached Resolution that addresses issues discussed in this memorandum and reiterates the Board's support for the closing of lands to mineral entry in the Coronado National Forest and lands owned by the County that are subject to federal mineral rights.

Respectfully submitted,


C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS TO WITHDRAW AREAS FROM MINING
AND MINERAL EXPLORATION**

WHEREAS, filling of mining claims, trespass, mineral extraction, and mineral exploration activities have become a significant threat to our conservation of natural landscapes, wildlife, water resources, and public health; and

WHEREAS, within the last two years, the County has had to commit taxpayer resources to opposing mineral exploration and mineral extraction activities on or adjacent to County natural reserves including Rancho Seco, Six Bar Ranch, Oracle Ridge properties, Bar V Ranch, and Cienega Creek; and

WHEREAS, the County has expended over \$50 million in County bond funds to purchase these properties for conservation; and

WHEREAS, these properties were purchased by Pima County to conserve federally endangered and threatened species, and prevent the future listing of vulnerable species as endangered or threatened; and

WHEREAS, even portions of the County's Tucson Mountain Park are still open to mineral entry and were subject to exploratory activities in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2007-15 on January 16, 2007 opposing the proposed Rosemont Mine in the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest, and requesting the withdrawal of certain areas from mineral entry; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2005-124 on June 7, 2005 opposing mining within County reserves and biologically sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, rapid population growth throughout Arizona, combined with significant tourism and economic development that is dependent on the natural beauty of this State, make the State incompatible with current mining practices and mining laws; and

WHEREAS, current mining practices and mining laws have resulted in inadequate and under-funded mitigation and reclamation in connection with mining activities; and

WHEREAS, inadequate and under-funded mitigation and reclamation have resulted in irreversible impacts to our native fish and wildlife, impacts to water quality and quantity, and visual blight; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of this County see few local tax benefits from mining and are instead left with the undue burden associated with air, water and visual pollution from previous mining activities; and

WHEREAS, mining has lead to public health concerns in Pima County, including impacts to ground water in and around the mines in Green Valley, and on Bureau of Land Management land known as Saginaw Hill; and

WHEREAS, in the case of Saginaw Hill, the Bureau of Land Management is left with the expense of assessing the public health impacts from mining activities that occurred historically on the property and remediating such impacts in order to protect public health; and

WHEREAS, 1,299,600 acres of Federal lands in Pima County, made up of the Ironwood Forest National Monument, Organ Pipe National Monument, Saguaro National Park, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Goldwater Gunnery Range, Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area, Rincon Wilderness Area, Mt. Wrightson Wilderness Area, Baboquivari Peak Wilderness Area, and Coyote Mountain Wilderness Area are already closed to mineral entry subject to existing valid rights at the time of designation; and

WHEREAS, withdrawing from mineral entry the federal lands within the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest in Pima County, excluding the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness Area which is already closed to mineral entry, would close an additional 52,000 acres to mineral entry; and

WHEREAS, withdrawing from mineral entry the remaining federal lands within the Coronado National Forest in Pima County, excluding wilderness areas and the Santa Rita Mountain Range, would close an additional 186,000 acres to mineral entry.

NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of all federal lands within the Santa Rita Mountain Range of the Coronado National Forest in Pima County.
2. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of the remaining federal lands within the Coronado National Forest in Pima County.
3. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal, from mining and mineral exploration, of all County-owned natural reserves where the federal government owns the subsurface mineral rights.

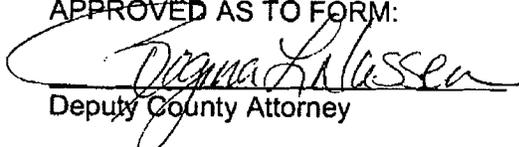
Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this ____ day of _____, 2007.

Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

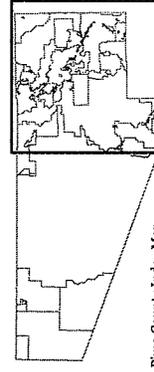
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Deputy County Attorney

Mining Activities in Eastern Pima County

- Mining Activities
 - Administrative Boundaries
- ### Major Roads
- Interstate
 - State Highway
 - Major Street



Pima County Index Map
Index Map Scale 1:125,000



Scale 1:125,000



February 14, 2009

The information depicted on this map is the result of a data collection process that includes the use of aerial photography and ground truthing. The accuracy of the information is not guaranteed. The user assumes all responsibility for the use of the information. This product is subject to the Department of Transportation's Standard Information Services Division's User Registration Agreement.



Pima County
Department of Transportation
Geographic Information Services
201 North Stone Avenue, 5th Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701
(520) 744-6870 • FAX (520) 744-3428
http://www.pima.gov

Map: pima\temp\pima\pima\dot\pima\mxd_4.mxd_09

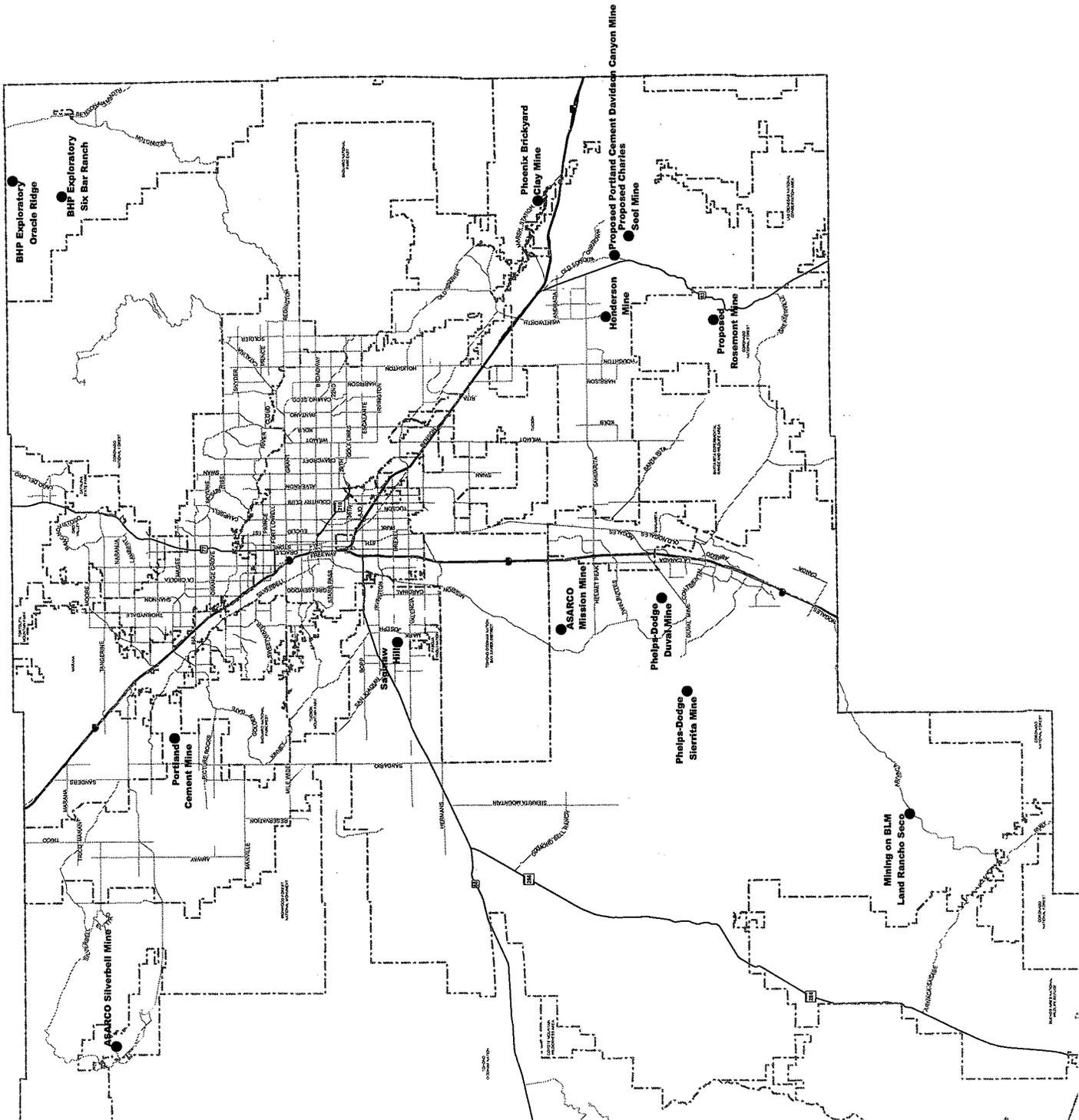


Figure 1. Davidson Canyon within the County's Bar V Ranch



Photo by Gloria Browne

Figure 2. Mining Activities on BLM lands within the County's Rancho Seco

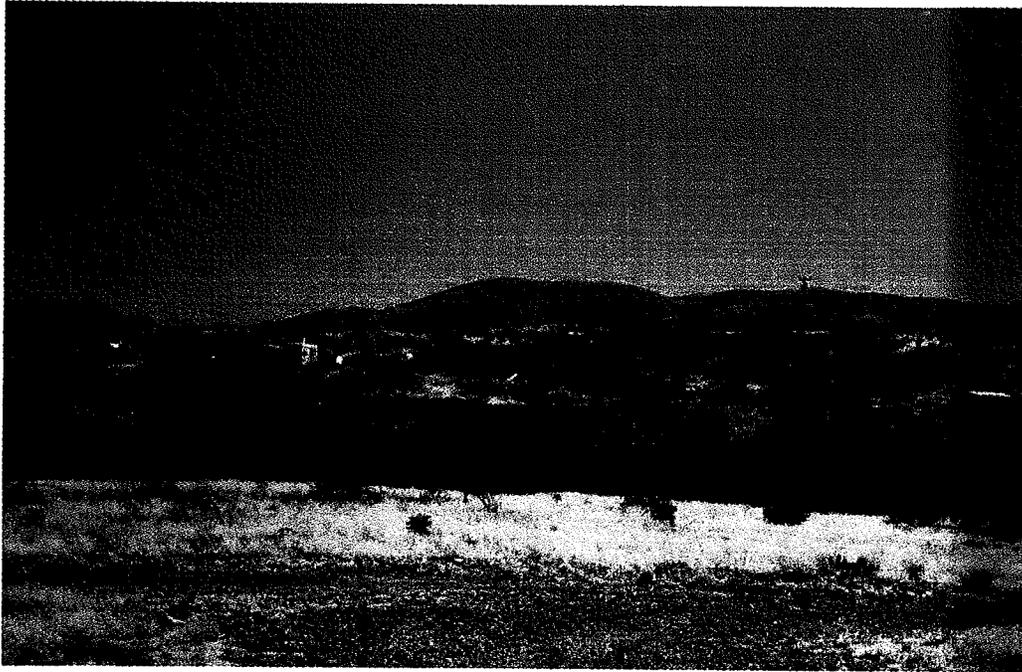


Figure 3. Proposed Rosemont Mine

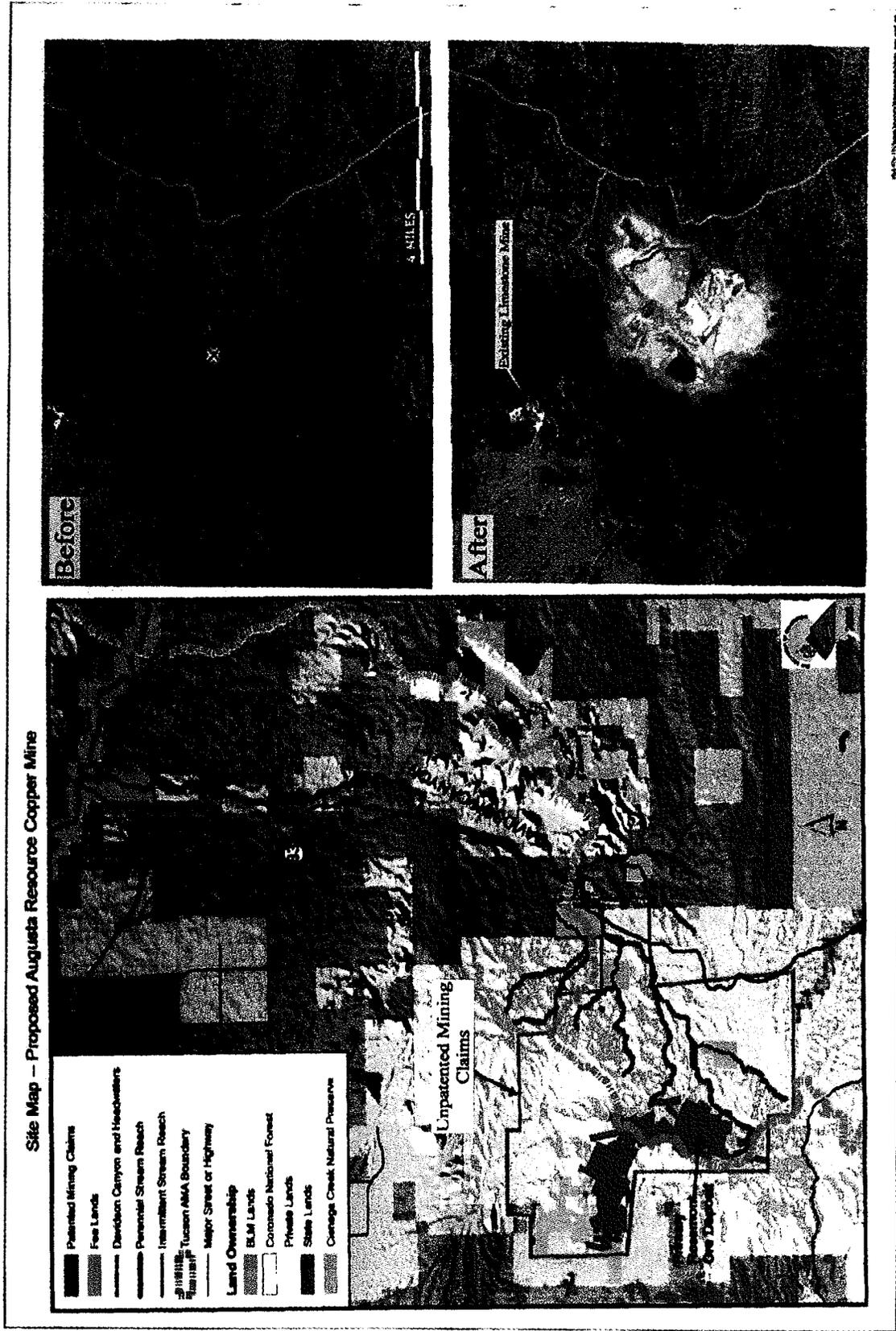


Figure 4. View of the Eastern Slopes of the Santa Ritas from Scenic Route 83

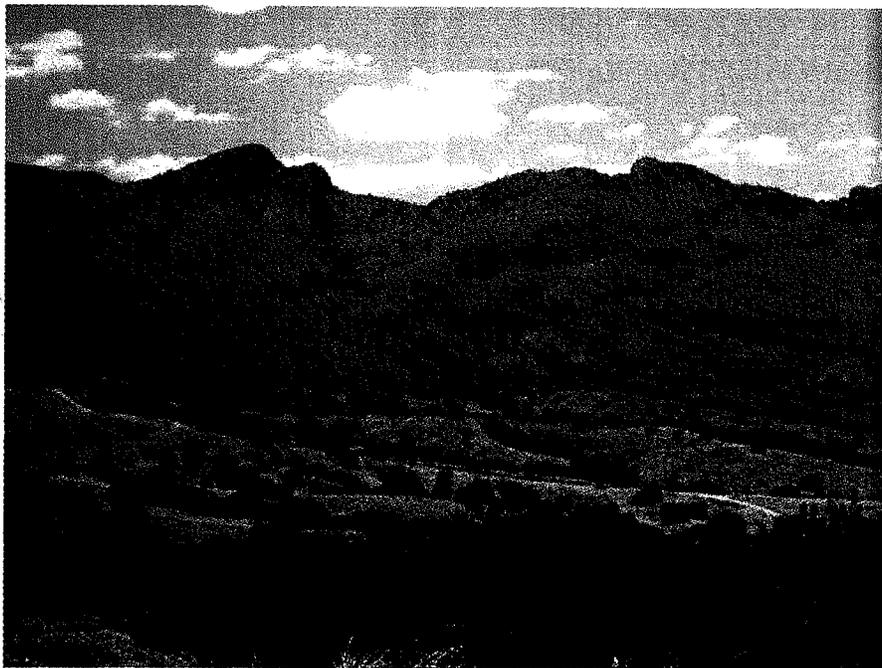


Photo by Lanie Levick

Figure 5. Same view as above, with Silverbell Mine (similar size as proposed Rosemont Mine) placed on photograph

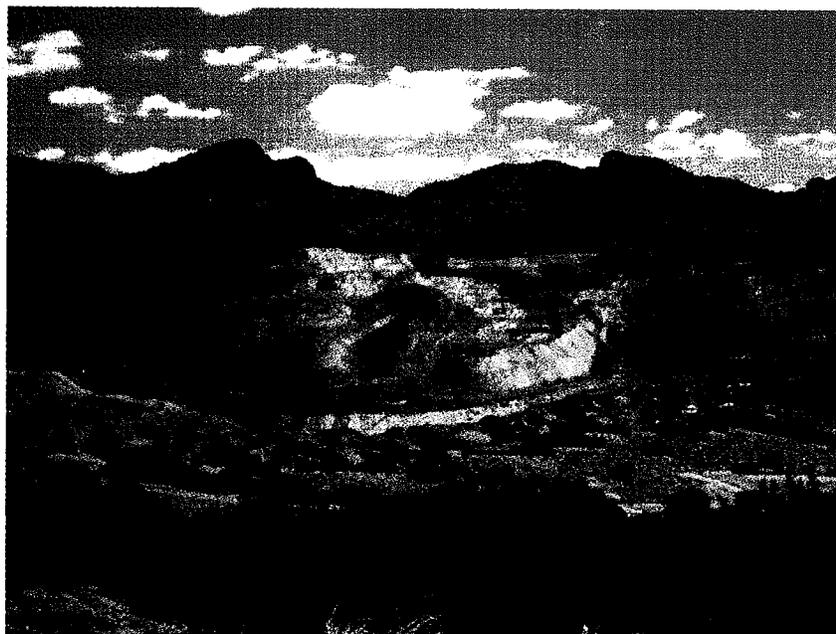


Photo by Lanie Levick

Figure 6. BHP Mine at San Manuel



Figure 7. Silverbell Mine

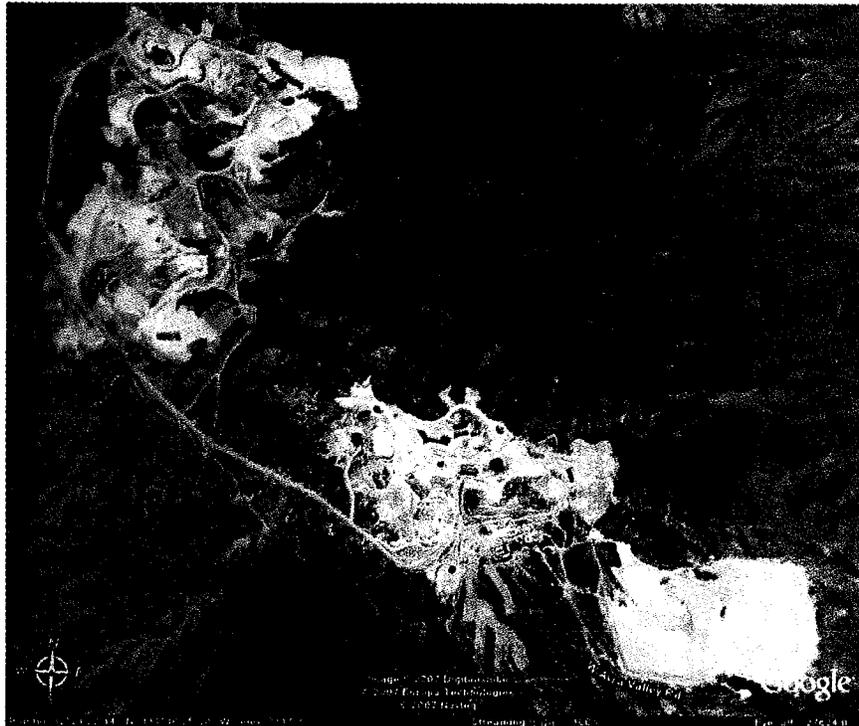


Figure 8. Clay Pit Adjacent to Cienega Creek



View of the clay pit and pond (lower right) adjacent to Cienega Creek. The flow arrow points to the direction of the run-off from the clay mine. The visible, lighter colored fine silts from the mine are carried to Cienega Creek.

Figure 9. ASARCO Mission Mine

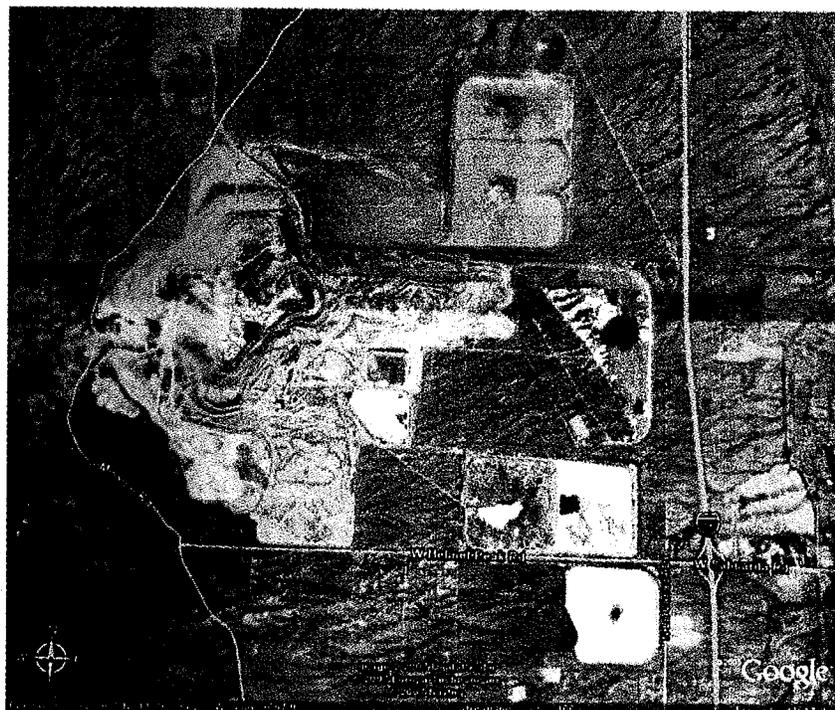


Figure 10. Phelps-Dodge Duval Mine



Figure 11. Phelps-Dodge Sierrita Mine

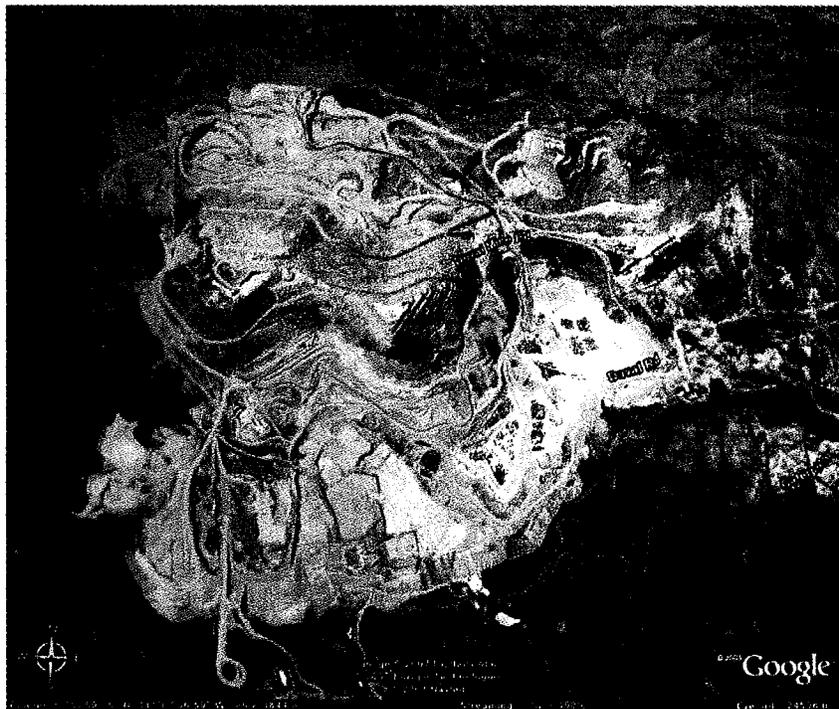


Figure 12. Dust at ASARCO Mission Mine (1)

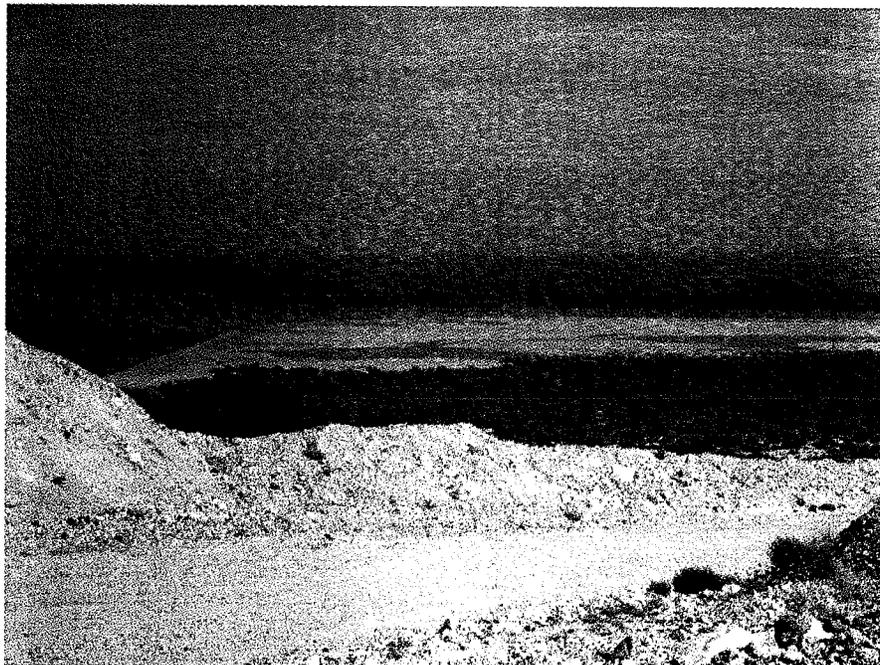


Figure 13. Dust at ASARCO Mission Mine (2)



Figure 14. Dust at ASARCO Mission Mine (3)



Figure 15. Dust at ASARCO Mission Mine (4)



Figure 16. BLM Saginaw Hill Property (1)



Photo by Steve Anderson

Hillside impacted by mining activity with slag heap, Saginaw Hill property.

Figure 17. BLM Saginaw Hill Property (2)

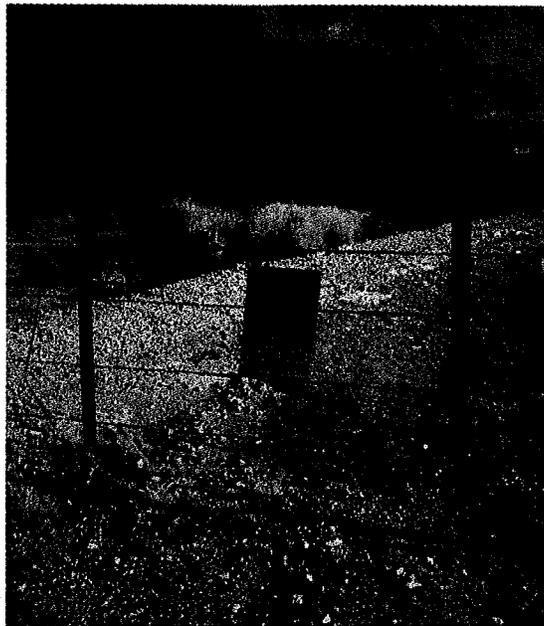


Photo by Steve Anderson

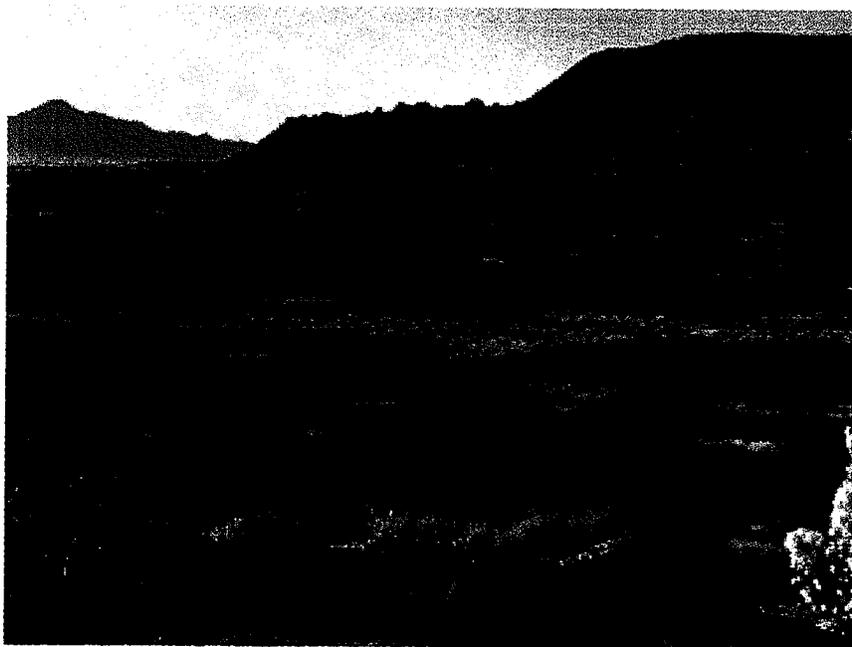
Contaminated site warning, Saginaw Hill property

Figure 18. ASARCO Mission Mine Tailings (Before)



Mine tailings unamended. (Photo: I. Pepper, University of Arizona)

Figure 19. ASARCO Mission Mine Tailings (After)



Mine tailings three years after biosolids amendment. (Photo: I. Pepper, University of Arizona)

2078



Steve_in_Arizona
<nitroxr2003@yahoo.com>
03/26/2008 08:52 AM

To: Comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us,
Joni.Jones@mail.house.gov, nancy.freeman@cox.net
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Mine Project EIS Questions

For NEPA Evaluation:

I have several questions/comments (please acknowledge receipt of comments).

1. I would like to understand how the Rosemont Mine project intends to use CAP water for recharge. Are they injecting it into a well or well field? Or, are they paying for water that is being recharged for them into the Santa Cruz recharge project? This has potential health consequences depending upon how recharge is done and the fact that CAP water is not potable without treatment. (see CAP water analysis 2006. I note Strontium present; analysis for Uranium is not included.)

I've included a web link for the Santa Cruz recharge project

<http://www.cap-az.com/static/index.cfm?contentID=69>

2. The geology of the aquifer as it relates to the recharge project is described. Also described is an underground defect in the field caused by "pumping from the mines". I would like to know if the water pumping the Rosemont Mine project intends to do could cause diversion or redistribution of the water supply.

3. The existing data for wells and geology within the Rosemont Mine plan cited is 1980's data. I'd like to know how such old out of date data can be accepted for a Mining plan. Looking at the plans comments it appears Rosemonts concern regards their test well (the only up to data data) is how much water it can produce now, not the sustainability of the aquifer. Does Rosemont have data on how long the well they plan to use will be able to produce the water they want; and, if the withdrawal of their water in the quantities they desire will cause any local subsidence of land or property in the towns?

Dr. Stephen Chrisman (Retired Family Physician)
Sahuarita, Arizona
520-777-3502

Be a better friend, newshound, and know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile. [Try it now.](#)

2079



"Kay Jones"
<kathykj@hughes.net>
03/26/2008 08:26 AM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc: <drexelkj@hughes.net>
Subject: Rosemont Copper Project

Dear Sirs:

We live between Sonoita and Patagonia on rt. 82. Route 83 is designated a Scenic Route which it will no longer be with dozens of trucks roaring down the road. The road will rapidly be torn up with that many trucks using it daily. Accidents will increase with the turn onto Rosemont Junction. There is also a real possibility of archeological interest and finds in that area since the Indians once lived there and the Mammoth was found not too far from that area. That area along Rt. 83 is a unique and highly used recreational area and will be spoiled with the mine there. Please stop and think about what your actions in allowing the Rosemont Copper Project to use the forest service areas around their private lands will do to the beauty of the area. We vote NO on this project.

Drexel D. and Kathleen K. Jones

e-mail kathykj@hughes.net

tel. number 1-520-394-2686

2080



"Robert Oman"
<bobbyo44@att.net>
03/26/2008 08:26 AM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Why would the government allow this to take place

Someone needs to get real and not allow the destruction of any public land by foreign conglomerates.

R. Oman – Stevensville, MI (a frequent visitor to this area to visit relatives).

2081



"Dietmar Winkelmann "
<dhwinkelmann@gelsen
nnet.de>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Mine

03/26/2008 07:42 AM

We are german tourists and we love America`s beautiful nature. So we don`t want the environment in the Santa Riota Mountains destroyed! How can anybody allow a company to ruin a scenic area for mining interests and forget the residents who have lived there for so many years!!!
Please stop this bad idea!
Sincerely, Hanne and Dietmar Winkelmann.



"JUDY BRYDON"
<montone.dreams@wild
blue.net>

To: hschewel@fs.fed.us
cc: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
Subject: Comment Period through April 18, 2008

03/25/2008 08:33 PM

Attn: Heidi Schewel

Regarding the Comment Period, will this now be extended as the Vail meeting is not to be held until April 5th? It would certainly help us, "Joe Citizen" if the Comment Period were to be extended as there is a lot of information to digest and research before we can comment with intelligence and confidence. Augusta has had a much longer time to put their plan together than we are provided to refute major points. We will be very grateful to the Forestry Service if it will extend the Comment Period.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,
Judy Brydon

2083



Tim Ellis
<tellis@azstarnet.com>
03/25/2008 03:37 PM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: E-mail test

Dear sirs/ma'ams --

My name is Tim Ellis. I'm a reporter for the Arizona Daily Star. I'm writing to this e-mail address to ensure it's correct. We'd like to include it with a news item about the Forest Service's EIS process for the proposed Rosemont Mine, for folks to comment on the issue. The story also will let readers know about the April 5 open house in Vail. Please reply when you get this message. Thanks.

--

Tim Ellis
Arizona Daily Star
(520) 807-8414
tellis@azstarnet.com

2084



mary desmidt
<mrdesmidt@yahoo .co
m>

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Mine

03/25/2008 03:27 PM

I would like to express my opposition to the Rosemont Copper Project. I am a part time resident of Green Valley, Az. I have enjoyed many excursions in the surrounding mountains and truly appreciate the uniqueness and special beauty that area offers. The Sky Islands of the Coronado National Forest are a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot. The potential pollution and toxins released by open pit copper mining are a hazard to the animals and plants that exist there. The existing watershed will be compromised if the project is approved. Noise, pollution, water contamination, restriction on recreational activities, destruction of wildlife and plant habitat, and devastation of scenic landscapes would quite likely be the consequences of this project. Please consider the irreparable losses that approval of this project would incur. Sincerely, Mary DeSmidt

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2085



"La Follette, Doug J -
SOS"
<Doug.LaFollette@Wisconsin.gov>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Mining issue

03/25/2008 12:55 PM

Dear Forest Service,

I urge you to make no revisions to the Forest Plan to accommodate Augusta. Please do not revise the Forest Plan to accommodate mining. The 1872 Mining Law does not require you to revise the plan to accommodate mining. If Augusta's Mining Plan of Operation (MPO) cannot meet the current standards and requirements of the Forest Plan, then you should deny the plan.

There are many reasons to avoid mining in this area:

- * The Sky Islands of the Coronado National Forest are a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot.
- * The Santa Rita Mountains and surrounding desert and grassland seas are globally recognized for their diversity of birds, reptiles, amphibians, bees and plants.
- * Augusta has no track record in mining and the mining industry has a dismal environmental record.

Please extend the time period for comments by 30 or 60 additional days to give the public time to review the plan and additional materials submitted by Augusta.

And schedule additional meetings to work on the scope of the EIS. Schedule additional meetings in Vail and Sonoita, both areas that will experience major impacts from the proposed mine.

Sincerely,
Doug La Follette

Doug La Follette
 Wisconsin Secretary of State
 Box 7848, Madison, WI. 53707
 608-266-8888, then push 2
 Please visit our site at www.sos.state.wi.us
 fax 608-266-3159

2086



"Tim Lengerich "
<tim@songcatchermusi
c.com>

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Copper Project Comment

03/25/2008 11:53 AM
Please respond to tim

Hey People,

I don't have time for an elaborate comment in the mine fiasco.
However, other than the BLM, I cannot think of a more pervasively
Earth-destructive entity than the Forest Service. How about giving us
and Mother a break this time. Show us/Her some respect. You'll feel
better for it.

Tim Lengerich

Hurt not the Earth, neither the Sea, nor the Trees.

Hozho,
Tim Lengerich
POB 111
Ajo, AZ 85321
www.songcatchermusic.com

2087



Carol L Mack
<Carol_L_Mack@raytheon.com>

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject:

03/25/2008 09:58 AM

Will we ever be done destroying what god gave us? Tell me that it will not happen.

2088



Deborah Nance
<dnance@cox.net>
03/25/2008 09:00 AM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Mine proposal

We are opposed to the Rosemont Mine in the Santa Rita Mountains.

We feel that there is no explanation, presentation, data, or excuse that would change the fact that LIFELONG, PERMANENT DAMAGE to the Santa Rita would occur if this mine becomes a reality. Considering loss of water quality, permanent damage to the environment and visual beauty of the Santa Ritas, to traffic problems and the negative impact on tourism in this part of the state it is unfathomable that another copper mine would even be considered. You just have to take a look at Green Valley, the Serrita Mountains are hidden by the tailings of the mines in that area. And it will be a 100 years before any vegetation grows on the tailings, it's pathetic that anyone would listen to the mining companies when they say they will "reclaim the land", it is a physical impossibility. As for jobs in Arizona there would be more and better jobs and benefits from technology companies than the handful of jobs that a mine would produce.

We say no to the Rosemont mine in the Santa Rita Mountains.

Claude and Deb Nance
Green Valley, AZ

2089



David Barnes
<weaintu@yahoo.com>

03/25/2008 08:58 AM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: rosemont

having sent emails on this subject before, i am simply reiterating my opposition to this mine operation. we would do well with a park in that area and less energy, resource wasting behavior.
david barnes
7278 w. maple ridge dr.
marana, az 85743

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<http://tools.search.yahoo.com/newsearch/category.php?category=shopping>



tom sawyer
<tomsawyer1727@hotmail.com>

03/25/2008 08:47 AM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Copper Mine Project

2090

Dear Coronado National Forest Representative,

My wife & I would like you to recognize our opposition to the Rosemont Copper Mine Project.

We feel that there are many valid reasons to not approving this project:

1. The negative effect on the fragile flora/fauna of the area.
2. The negative impact on underground aquifers and ground water supplies as well as engendering noise and air pollution.
3. The wrongful application of outdated mining laws created years ago and being applied to a completely different environment from that of the past.
4. The negative impact on tourism and related businesses.
5. The misconceptions about job creation producing more income and economic well-being. The copper company will certainly benefit financially but little else. And the net result will eventually be lost revenue in the long run when considering the outcome of the other items we have listed.

Thank you for allowing us to share our concerns with you. I think the National Forests can better serve the interests of the people of the U.S. in more constructive ways than to permit this project to be approved.

This is our first winter in Green Valley, AZ, and we truly enjoy the beauty of this area (especially the lovely Santa Rita Mountains) and plan to spend many more winters here.

Tom & Diane Sawyer
PO Box 1424
North Conway, NH 03860

Windows Live Hotmail is giving away Zunes.
http://www.windowlive-hotmail.com/ZuneADay/?locale=en-US&ocid=TXT_TAGLM_Mobile_Zune_V3



"Roger Wise"
<rogerwise@cox.net>
03/24/2008 09:11 PM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Copper Project

As a citizen of Green Valley and Pima County, I strongly oppose the Rosemont Copper Project for the reasons listed herein.

The Rosemont Copper Project would be located 30 miles southeast of Tucson, in Pima County, on approximately 995 acres of private land; 3,670 acres of National Forest land; 15 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and 75 acres of State Trust land.

The EPA reports that in 2005, metal or hard rock mining in Arizona released over 39.4 million pounds of toxins.

Pima County commissioned and submitted a Hydro Geological Study to the Coronado that raised the threat of surrounding groundwater and surface water depletion from pumping out an open pit copper mine, as well as potential leaching of pollutants into groundwater.

With the outdated 1872 Mining Law still in place, an estimated 230,000 acres of public land in Arizona have already been sold to private interests for \$2.50 or \$5.00 per acre.

The Sky Islands of the Coronado National Forest are a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot.

The Santa Rita Mountains and surrounding desert and grassland seas are globally recognized for the diversity of birds, reptiles, amphibians, bees and plants.

Augusta has no track record in mining and the mining industry has a dismal environmental record.

Increased truck traffic (600-700 per week). Trucks will be traveling every ten to fifteen minutes, 24/7 on local roads and highways.

Of the 117 million dollars Augusta claims in community commitments, 67 million dollars of that is actually just costs associated with the business of mining.

Augusta claims 350 jobs, but mining jobs are transitory as part of the mining bust and boom cycle. In reality, the mine will recreate opportunities and the jobs that depend on them will be lost forever.

Negative impact on the local tourism based economy.

Noise pollution, air pollution and water contamination.

Destruction of wildlife habitat, wildlife movement corridors, native plants and ecosystems.

Elimination or restriction of biking, hiking, hunting, camping, and bird watching.

Irreparable devastation of the scenic landscapes and view sheds.

Regards,

Roger E. Wise

Roger E. Wise

Colonel, US Army (Ret)

Green Valley, AZ

2092



Vail Arizona
<vailaz@hotmail.com>
03/24/2008 07:15 PM

To:
cc: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>, <district4@pima.gov>, <district3@pima.gov>, <district2@pima.gov>, <district1@pima.gov>, <district5@pima.gov>, <nyoungwright@azleg.gov>, <tprezelski@azleg.gov>, <jpaton@azleg.gov>, <mmcclure@azleg.gov>, <lioopez@leg.gov>, <plopes@azleg.gov>, <phershberger@azleg.gov>, <sfarley@azleg.gov>, <ocajerobedford@azleg.gov>, <dbradley@azleg.gov>, <vsoltero@azleg.gov>, <cpesquiera@azleg.gov>, <jgarcia@azleg.gov>, <tbee@azleg.gov>, <paboud@azleg.gov>
Subject: Vail Arizona and our Neighbors to the West-a must read- Land Subsidence and Groundwater depletion in

Hello All (too many to address in the proper manner-I do apologize),

I would respectfully request that you hear this man's pleas. There are three communities that will be directly and immediately affected by the Rosemont Copper project should be approved, whether negatively or positively. These communities are Vail, Sonoita and Sahuarita Arizona. These are the three communities who should had scoping meetings scheduled immediately and without a second thought. Two of these communities (Vail and Sahuarita) have rural pockets of modest to down right poverty stricken communities tucked amongst the wealthy and it is a mockery of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice and the NEPA process that they were initially excluded. Don't get me wrong, this project has the ability to affect many communities indirectly in many different ways and there should be many meetings. I do not intend to minimize anyone's struggle.

There is a quote by someone I cannot name at this time that goes something like this " A hungry man does not see right or wrong, he sees nothing but food". Robert should be commended for trying to make a difference in his community which is terribly frightened. For those of you who scoff and think of Rancho Sahuarita-take a drive some time and visit Sahuarita Heights. I did when I attended a well meeting. The hunger and fear were almost palpable.

It is due to the tenacity of the citizens of the Vail/Cienega Corridor and other representatives that we were able to get a meeting in the Vail/Cienega Corridor. It is a travesty that Sahuarita, in particular Sahuarita Heights, and Sonoita are still left begging. I had a conversation with someone today who said why bother? Some of the politicians who say they are against the mine to your face are actually in the bag and there is nothing we can do to stop it. Maybe that is true, may be it is not, but I REFUSE to let these people be excluded from a process meant to let them have a voice. Whether you are for or against the mine, please show your character and be FOR THE PROCESS!

Thank you to those who will help give others a voice,

Lastly, thank you to all of those who have helped to give us a voice-you know who you are.

Elizabeth Webb
Vail/Cienega Corridor Volunteer

--Forwarded Message Attachment--
Date: Mon, 24 Mar 2008 19:26:17 -0400
From: rrobuck70@peoplepc.com
To: ccook520@aol.com
Subject: Fw: Land Subsidence and Groundwater depletion in Sahuarita

-----Forwarded Message-----

>From: "rrobuck70@peoplepc.com" <rrobuck70@peoplepc.com>

>Sent: Mar 24, 2008 7:10 PM

>To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us, district4@pima.gov, district3@pima.gov, district2@pima.gov, district1@pima.gov, district5@pima.gov, nyoungwright@azleg.gov, tprezelski@azleg.gov, jpaton@azleg.gov, mmclure@azleg.gov, liopez@leg.gov, plopes@azleg.gov, phershberger@azleg.gov, sfarley@azleg.gov, ocajerobedford@azleg.gov, dbradley@azleg.gov, vsoltero@azleg.gov, cpesquiera@azleg.gov, jgarcia@azleg.gov, tbee@azleg.gov, paboud@azleg.gov

>Cc: fwtahse@yahoo.com, vwolf@swlaw.com

>Subject: Land Subsidence and Groundwater depletion in Sahuarita

>

>Hello

> I'm sending you this e-mail in hopes of informing you of the request that residents of Sahuarita Heights have made upon the U.S. Forest Service in regards to the proposed Rosemont mine. Please take a few minutes of your time to read this e-mail and the attached request.

>

> Thank You,

> Sincerely Robert Robuck

>

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>

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>I am a resident of Sahuarita heights area, which is located south of Tucson and north of Green Valley. My wife was born and raised in Tucson. She met me in northern California where we lived for over 20 years and raised our family. She had always wanted to move back to Arizona. In 2003, while on vacation, her brother took us to Sahuarita to see some property that was for sale. After only one look, I could see how beautiful it was and what a fabulous view of the Santa Rita Mountains it had. I knew that this was the place for our family to build our dream home. In 2004 I moved my family to Arizona to live on our newly acquired property. While living on the property in a trailer, we built our dream home to all of Pima County's 2006 building codes.

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our communities for years to come. I'm hoping that something can be done immediately to protect the communities of Sahuarita and Green Valley from the same fate as Pinal County, where the subsidence issue is measured in
>tens of feet instead of inches.

>

>It is grossly unfair that our community is required to follow twenty-first century building codes, while mining companies can use an antiquated, nineteenth century mining law to destroy our homes. But the issues I have described here are far more important than complying with the intent of the 1872 Mining Law, which was to encourage mining exploration and development, perhaps necessary in the 1800's. These issues go to the core of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), the intent of which is to protect our environment, our properties, and our way of life.

>

>National Environmental Policy Act Section 101 paragraph B pertains to Rosemont's activities of transporting groundwater away from Sahuarita would interfere with the natural balance of the environments ability to maintain critical water levels for the overall development and welfare of the our community. Rosemont's transportation of groundwater from Sahuarita, which is already suffering from a groundwater depletion and land subsidence, may cause a risk to health and safety of the residents with undesirable consequences to the community and

>

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>

>Sahuarita Heights is a low income community and needs to be included in the NEPA process: this may bring an alternative action such as the Environmental Justice Executive Order. I request a meeting to be held in Sahuarita Heights to inform the community of Rosemont's activities and how their actions could affect our community's groundwater, infrastructure, land subsidence, and traffic issues related to the uses of the proposed secondary access road (Santa Rita road).

>

>Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry stated earlier this month his concerns about the over use of the groundwater and that the aquifer in Green Valley is falling at the rate of 4 feet a year.

>

>Water is the most precious resource Arizona has and should not be wasted for the profits of others, especially foreign companies. Also, it should not be allowed for the Rosemont Copper Company to trade Central Arizona Project water that they have been recharging into the ground in Marana for drinking water (groundwater) in Sahuarita, 30 miles or more to the south of Marana, especially since Marana groundwater is flowing away from Sahuarita. This defies logic, boggles the mind and is a great misuse of taxpayers' money.

>

>The water of Arizona is the life blood of the communities in this great state and should never be wasted in such a foolish manner. I hope that our politicians will be better stewards of the taxpayers' money and stop the wasteful use of Arizona's ground water. In so doing, they will be protecting the lives of our communities. The water belongs to

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>

>Robert Robuck

>Arizona Homeowner

>March 24, 2008

>

>

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>_____

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Windows Live Hotmail is giving away Zunes. Enter for your chance to win. [US_Forest_Service_comment.pdf](#)



YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT!

**PUBLIC COMMENTS
FOR THE
PROPOSED ROSEMONT COPPER PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

If you would like to make a comment or be added to our mailing list, please fill out this form and hand it to any of our staff or mail it to the address provided. You are also welcome to write a letter or send e-mail to: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us. Thank you!

COMMENT: Rosemont's activities of transporting groundwater away from Sahuarita would interfere with the natural balance of the environments ability to maintain critical water levels for the overall development and welfare of the community.

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NAME: Robert Robuck

EMAIL: rrobuck70@PeoplePC.com

ADDRESS: Sahuarita, AZ. 85629

PLEASE ADD ME TO THE MAILING LIST (circle one): YES NO

Please be advised that comments and personal information associated with them, such as names and addresses, become part of the Administrative Record for this NEPA review. As such, they may be made available to a third-party upon request under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Personally identifying information is protected by the Privacy Act. If you do not wish for your personal information to be released under the FOIA, you may choose not to include it with your comments. Alternatively, you may request an exemption from FOIA with your comment submittal. Should you choose the latter, you would be informed by the Forest Service as to whether or not your request qualifies for an exemption. If it does not, you would be afforded the opportunity to resubmit your comments without personal information or to withhold them altogether.

2093



<xsodbuster@cox.net>

03/24/2008 06:31 PM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Rosemont

It would be a shame to give this mining company land to dump on! The copper from this deposit does not come close to paying for the distruction of this land that is very scenic and heavily used for public recreation.

Please look at this project with this in mind.

Wayne Moshier



"Joy Hughes"
<joyful2@cox.net>
03/24/2008 06:21 PM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: HELP!

Please, please don't allow the Augusta Resource Corporation to ruin our beautiful Santa Rita Mountains and rob us of our water! No open pit copper mining company should be allowed to do this, but especially a foreign-owned company.

Reasons not to do this:

An estimated 39.4 millions pounds of toxin will be released over the life of the mine's operation. That alone is reason to Deep Six this project.

We're already in big, big trouble with regard to enough water to support the population. The mine would have a huge impact (utterly disregarding the needs of the people) on available water as well as resultant pollutants.

A few hundred jobs vs. irreparable harm to our environment and quality of life? No contest!

How is our government allowing an extremely outdated Mining Law to be a factor? These laws should have been changed decades ago. Is this yet another example of the tail (the lobbyists, the profiteers) wagging the dog?

The Sky Islands of the Santa Rita Mountains.....a magnificent place for so many species. How can any project be considered that will jeopardize this amazing place?

Let's talk about the company.....they have no track record in mining that will assure us that their impact won't be as dismal as the rest of the mining industry. Just the truck traffic alone will be horrific.

We've been following this issue very closely and haven't read a single redeemable reason for this mining operation to be allowed. Let China get its copper from other parts of the world! This area is special - special enough for hundreds of thousands to choose to leave their lifelong homes around the nation to retire here. It can't be allowed to be violated. Please, please don't permit this.

Joy & Harry Hughes
402 N. Mountain Brook Drive
Green Valley, AZ 85614



"rrobuck70@peoplepc.com" <rrobuck70

03/24/2008 04:10 PM

Please respond to
"rrobuck70@peoplepc.com"

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us, district4@pima.gov, district3@pima.gov, district2@pima.gov, district1@pima.gov, district5@pima.gov, nyoungwright@azleg.gov, tprezelski@azleg.gov, jpaton@azleg.gov, mmcclure@azleg.gov, liopez@leg.gov, plopes@azleg.gov, phershberger@azleg.gov, sfarley@azleg.gov, ocajerobedford@azleg.gov, dbradley@azleg.gov, vsoltero@azleg.gov, cpesquiera@azleg.gov, jgarcia@azleg.gov, tbee@azleg.gov, paboud@azleg.gov

cc: fwtahse@yahoo.com, vvwolf@swlaw.com

Subject: Land Subsidence and Groundwater depletion in Sahuarita

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Sincerely Robert Robuck

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Robert Robuck
Arizona Homeowner
March 24, 2008

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<http://www.peoplepc.com> US_Forest_Service_comment.pdf



YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT!

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED ROSEMONT COPPER PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

If you would like to make a comment or be added to our mailing list, please fill out this form and hand it to any of our staff or mail it to the address provided. You are also welcome to write a letter or send e-mail to: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us. Thank you!

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NAME: Robert Robuck

EMAIL: rrobuck70@PeoplePC.com

ADDRESS:

Sahuarita, AZ. 85629

PLEASE ADD ME TO THE MAILING LIST (circle one): YES NO

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2096



"Christi Heintz "
<christih@cox.net>

03/24/2008 01:56 PM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Mine Must Not go forward

My husband and I purchased a home and also land in the Green Valley and Tubac area approximately 3 years ago. We live here full-time now. We gave up great jobs, great schools, great neighbors and a wonderful lifestyle to live here in Green Valley. The draw was the Santa Rita's. We hike and bike all over the mountain range.

The Rosemont Mine must not go forward. Not only will it destroy our natural resources, it will scar our landscape. Not to mention take our water. We have to do all we can to preserve the aquifer.

For the most part, we love Arizona. But we find there are some really backwards things about Arizona. Like operating under an 1872 mining law. That's ridiculous.

Stop the Rosemont mine.

Respectfully submitted,
Christi Heintz

Christi Heintz
christih@cox.net
520-834-2832

2097



"molly phinny"
<mphinny@msn.com>
03/24/2008 08:32 AM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: save the santa ritas

Think water.

Think beauty.

We cannot justify this short-term business operation when we know what the long-term results will be.

Please reconsider your plan.

Molly Phinny

Patagonia concerned citizen

POBox 1148

Patagonia, AZ 85624

2098



bonwill@bbachmann .co
m
03/23/2008 01:57 PM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Copper Project

Beverly everson,

I am very concerned about the amount of water this project will take away from precious supply. Before we moved here to Green Valley in 2006, this project did not exist. At that time, there was already concern that the aquifer would sustain the then current growth.

We now know that concern was not unfounded! Sahuarita is already experiencing problems with it's future water supply.

Water in this area is too precious to waste on mining projects because they have no way to replenish what they take, no matter what they say they can do! It seems that all the hydrologists agree on this point.

Therefore, I am opposed to spending any more public time and money analyzing this already moot project.

Please add me to the mailing list! bonwill@bbachmann.com

William & Bernadette Bachmann
2289 W. Calle Balaustre
Green Valley, AZ 85614



E Webb
<vailaz@hotmail.com>
Sent by:
<rinconvalleyis@hotmail.com>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc: <vailaz@hotmail.com>
Subject: Proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS- March 23rd Comments

03/23/2008 12:14 PM

Elizabeth Webb
Vail, AZ 85641
March 23, 2008

Additional Preliminary Comments on the proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS.

These are preliminary comments and I reserve the right to enter more comments during the scoping period which has been extended.

After attending the three Open House format meetings, Desert Vista on March 18th 2008, Green Valley on March 19th 2008 and Patagonia on March 20th 2008 it has become even more apparent that this format is not one which is well received by the public. An Open House format can serve well for those who wish to view adequate information in a timely manner, write their comments and then leave. Unfortunately, the "chart looking" as it has now been dubbed, has been presented in such a manner as to give the impression of bias on behalf of the applicant.

The Lead Agency, the Forest Service, has been the only federal agency with jurisdiction visibly present at these Open Houses. There are other federal agencies whose input will carry significant weight in the DEIS and EIS that appear to have been excluded from the initial scoping meetings. As a member of the public I would like to see informational charts presented by other federal and cooperating agencies to help me formulate appropriate questions and comments. This is not a new concern. CEQ guidelines have made the allowance for a lead agency to assume supervisory responsibility for preparation of the statement. Supervisory responsibility would assume fair representation of other agencies. I would like to see other federal and cooperating agencies' information presented at these meetings.

I have included in this email/comment sheet a few images which contain the type of information members of the public might want to view to feel as if they are more a part of the process. The perception of the format and information presented so far has been one of rationalization of a proposed project rather than emphasizing the need to answer environmental questions associated with it. Many of us are hearing that this is a "Done Deal" and the actions we have seen so far do little to make us feel the Forest Service sees things differently.

I did these informal maps in little under a half hour from three different GIS maps online. These are my copies which only show a small portion of the project area and are for demonstration/discussion purposes only-they are not for widespread public distribution and should be independently verified. Use of these types of charts to present a fair and balanced

picture would be appropriate.

One source was from the Pima County Map Guide, one was from the Arizona Map Guide and one was from the SDCP Map Guide.

From the comments I have heard at the Open House meetings, people are interested in the Geology, Water, Land Owning Jurisdictions, Habitats of Birds, Reptiles, Mammals, Invertebrates, Historic/Cultural Sites, Astronomy Concerns, Traffic patterns, and utility infrastructure among other things. If you treat people with respect, you are more likely to receive it in return. If I can make up these maps in less than a half hour then I am sure people with experience, education and knowledge in these fields can do it right in no time at all.

<http://www.dot.pima.gov/gis/maps/mapguide/>
<http://www.dot.pima.gov/cmo/sdcpmaps/>

There is a way to request even more fine tuned levels that are not online via disk from Pima County, and you may contact your cooperating partners there for that information. I truly believe there will be less discord if a balanced perspective is shown at these Open House meetings and a hearing style meeting as promised is given before the end of the scoping period for those who chose to attend.

To repeat what I have mentioned in other comment sheets.

1. It is imperative that all of the communities who will be directly impacted by the proposed project have a public meeting. Although the Vail/Cienega Corridor is now scheduled to have a meeting on April 5th 2008 at one of the VSD High Schools in the later afternoon, early evening, Sahuarita and Sonoita have not, to my knowledge, been scheduled for a meeting.
2. If you want people to be either less cranky or less comatose, provide salty, not sugar snacks. Most of the attendees are adults-how about some coffee, veggies, cheese and crackers along with the water instead of cookies? Pretzels are cheap too. You could leave one contractor home for the evening and pay for the extra cost.
3. Perception is powerful. If people are told to put their comment sheets into an unguarded open basket that looks like it came from Michaels, what does that say about how the Forest Service feels about our comments?

New Comment:

1. Security is provided for a reason. If the Forest Service perceives there is a security issue, use the paid security. Members of the public did not feel there was a threat and running out the back door from a meeting does not speak well for the leadership. In Patagonia, other people arrived after the meeting ended abruptly and there was no one there aside from members of the public to tell them what happened. Some of us drove many miles, especially since these initial three meetings were scheduled extremely far away from the proposed project area.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Webb
Vail/Cienega Corridor Volunteer
Vail, AZ
(520)247-3838



RosemontProjectSDCP.jpg



RosemontProjectChirFrog.jpg



RosemontProjectAreasofHighBiologicalSignificance.jpg



RosemontProjectLowlanLeopardFrog.jpg



RosemontProjectRiparianHabitat.jpg



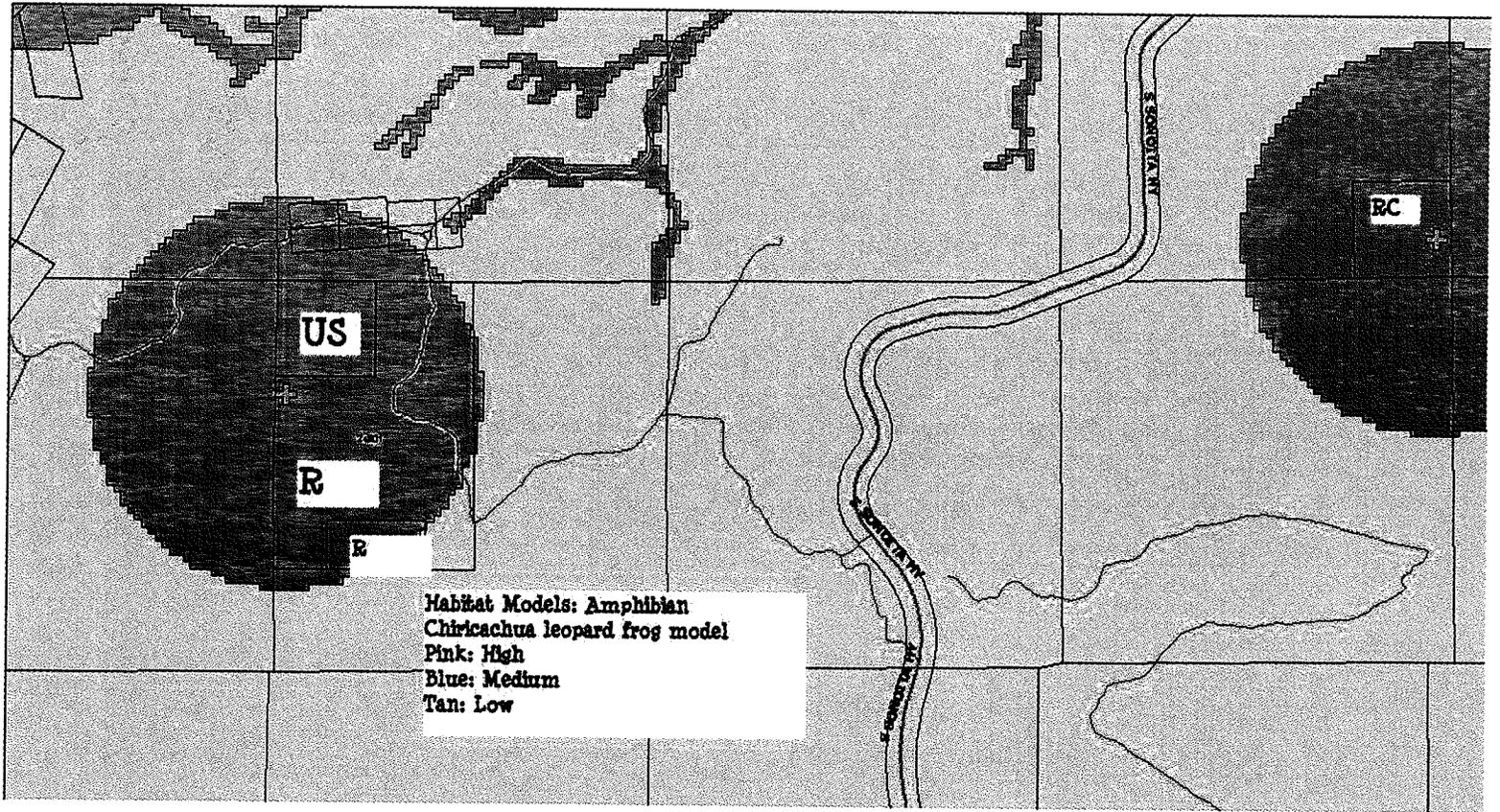
RosemontProjectSoils.jpg

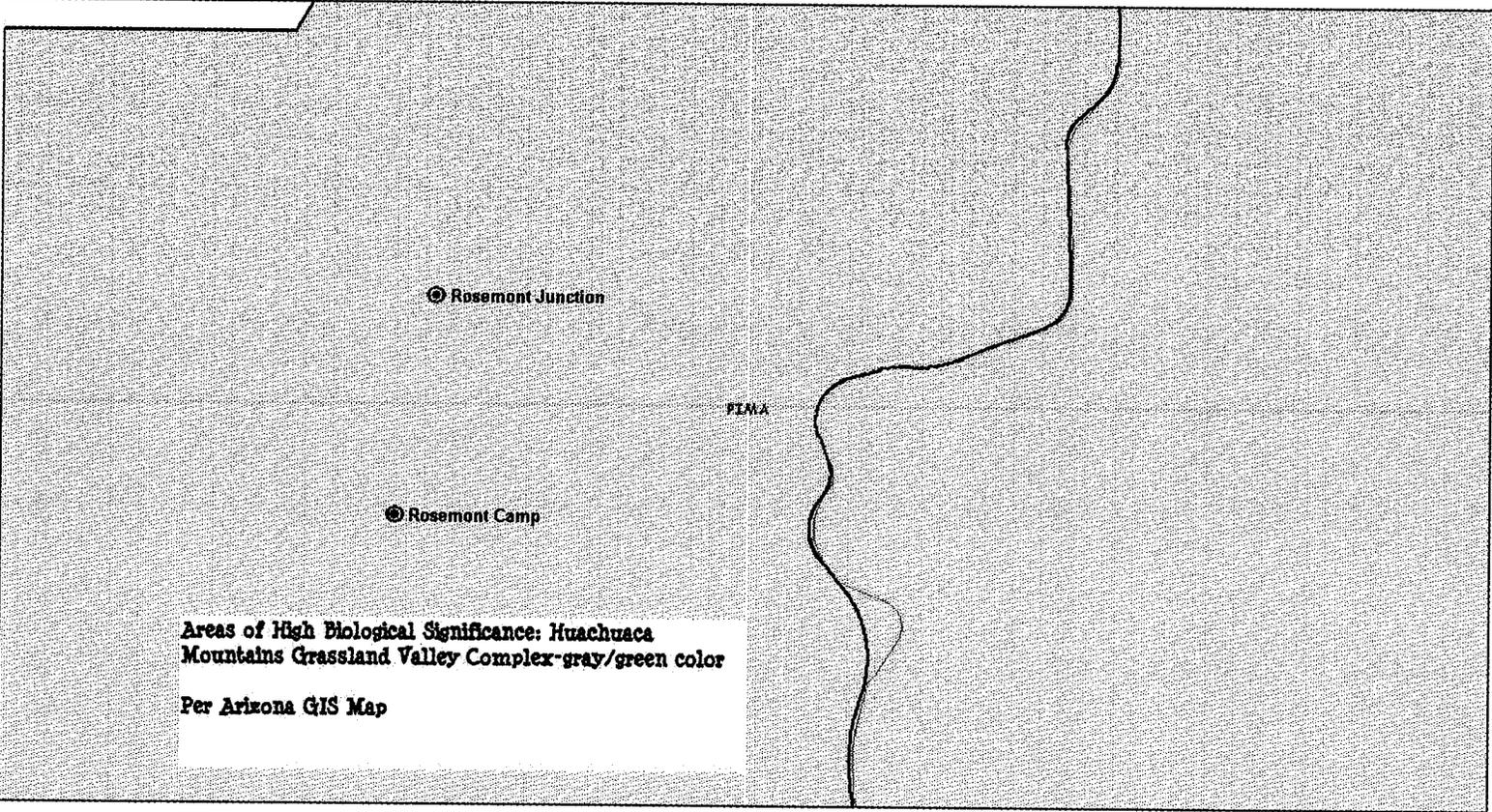


RosemontProjectSwainson'sHawkModel.jpg



RosemontProjectWater.jpg





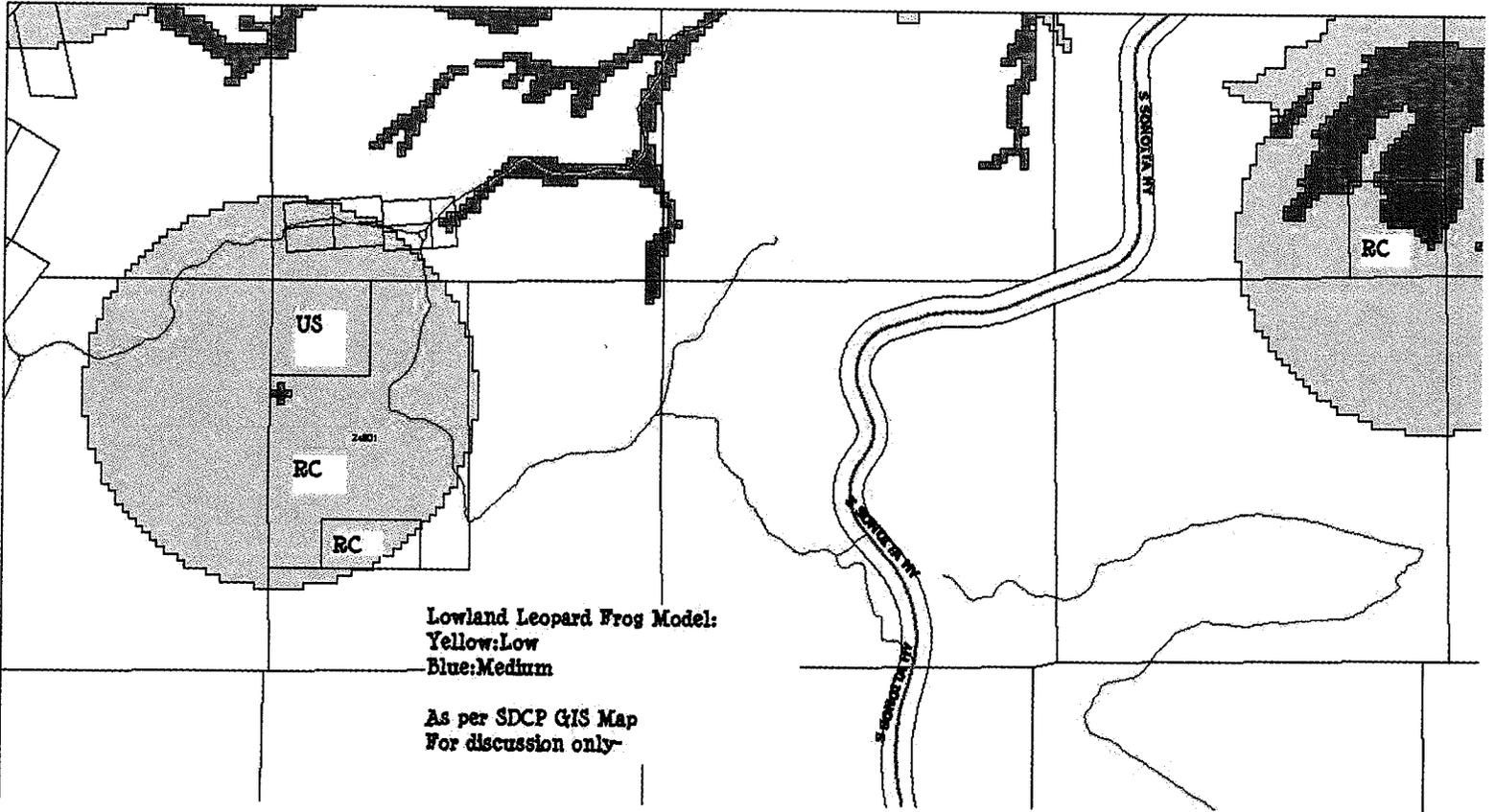
① Rosemont Junction

② Rosemont Camp

FIMA

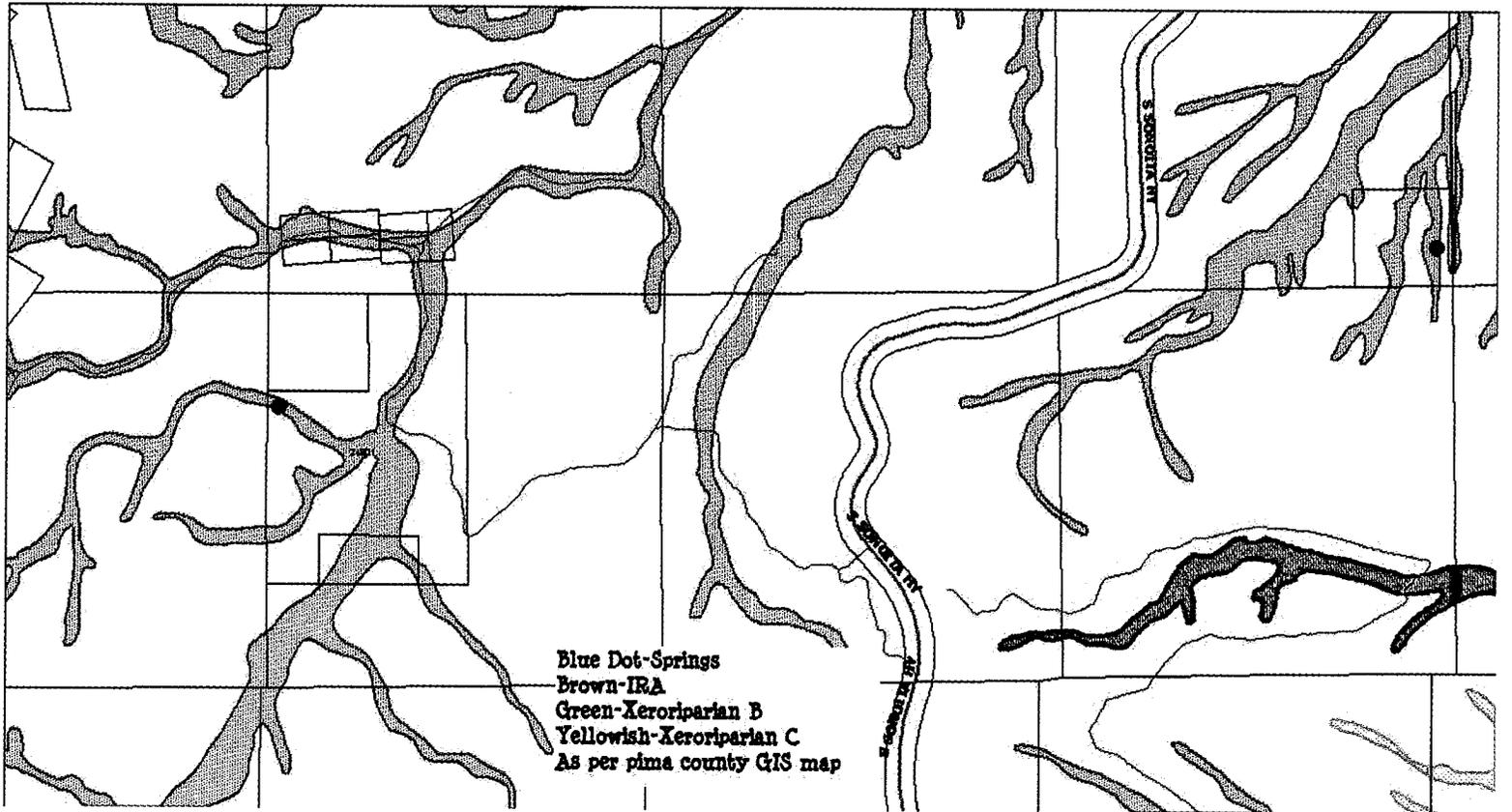
Areas of High Biological Significance: Huachuaca
Mountains Grassland Valley Complex-gray/green color

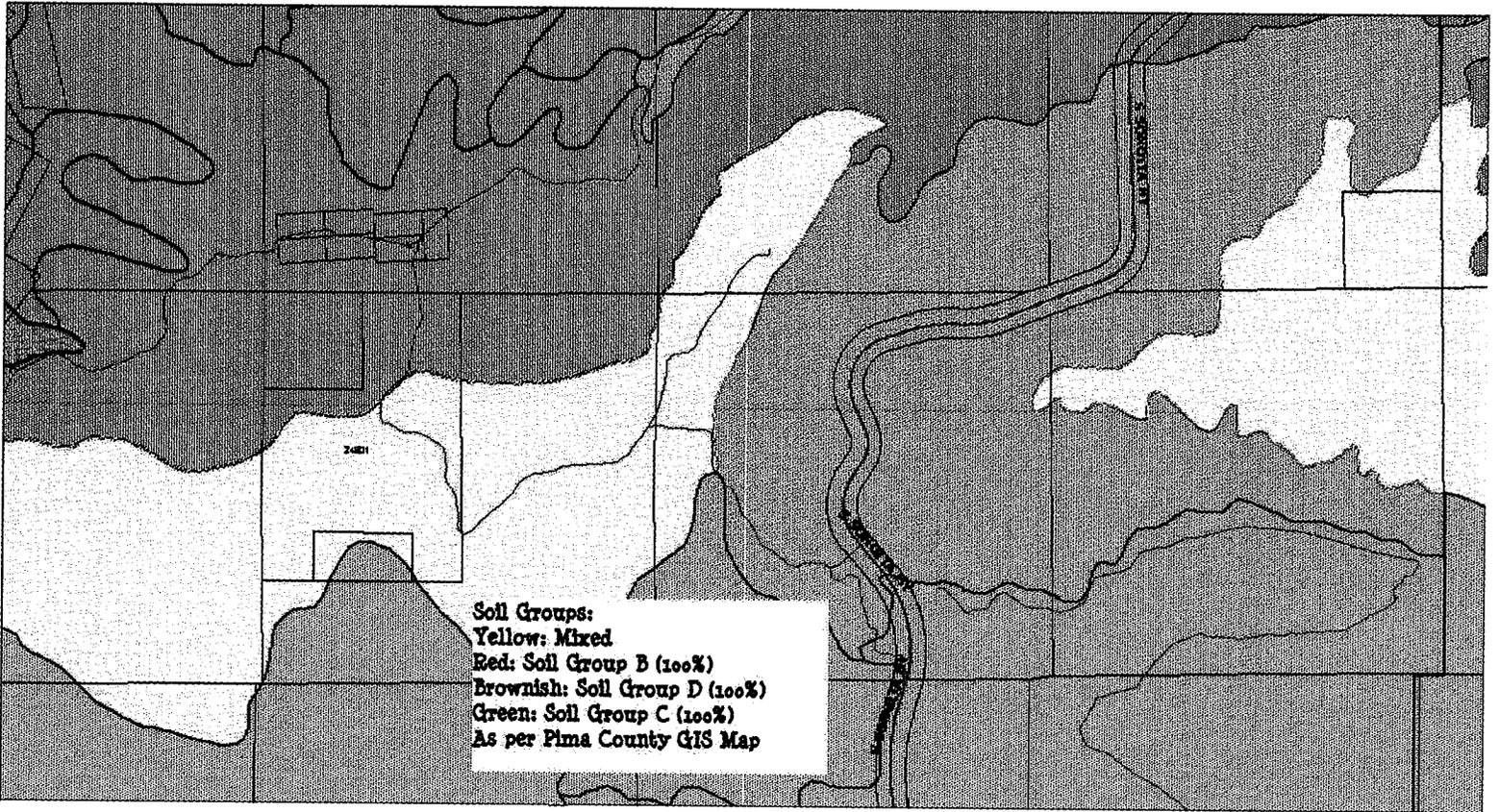
Per Arizona GIS Map

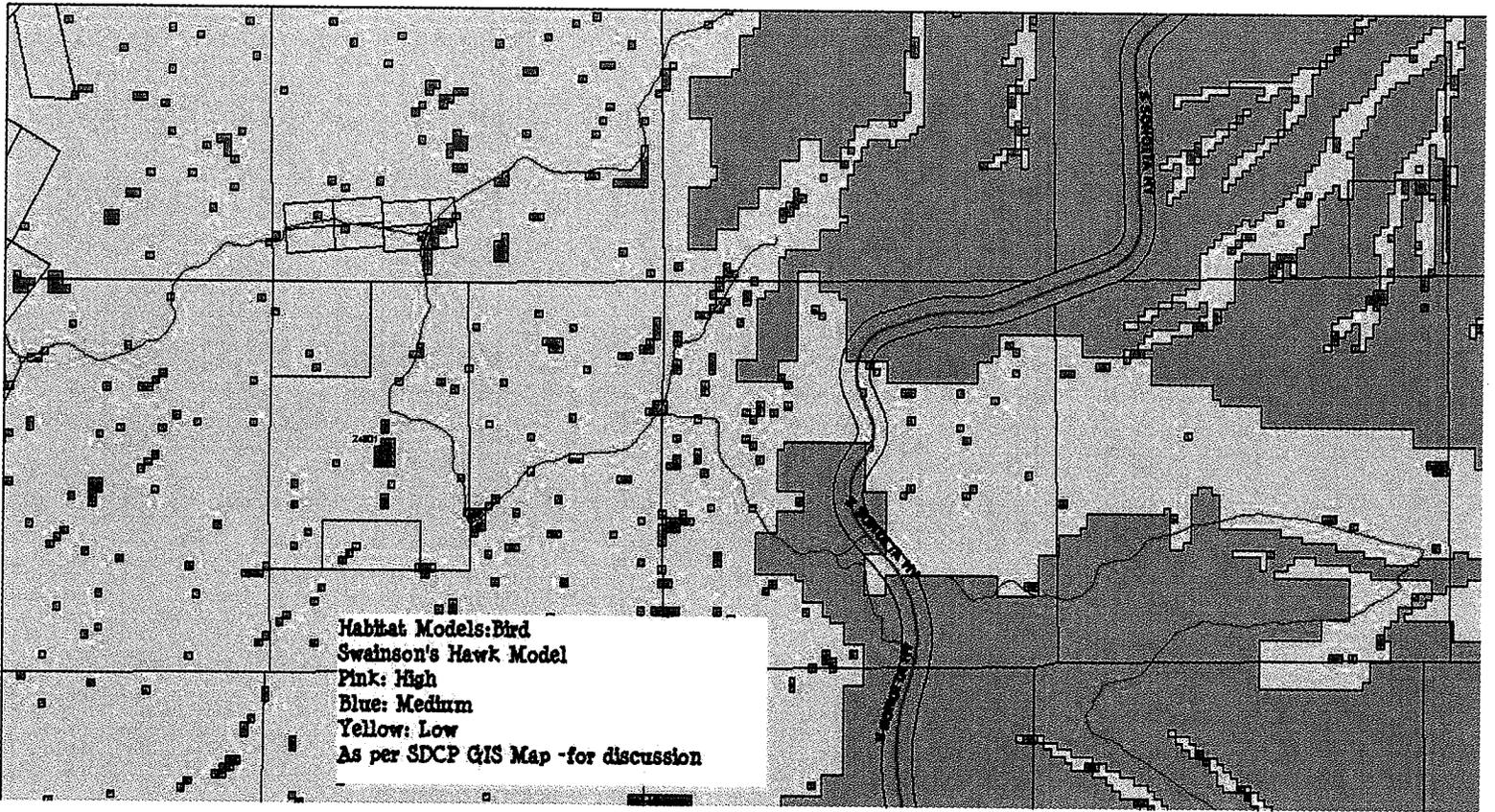


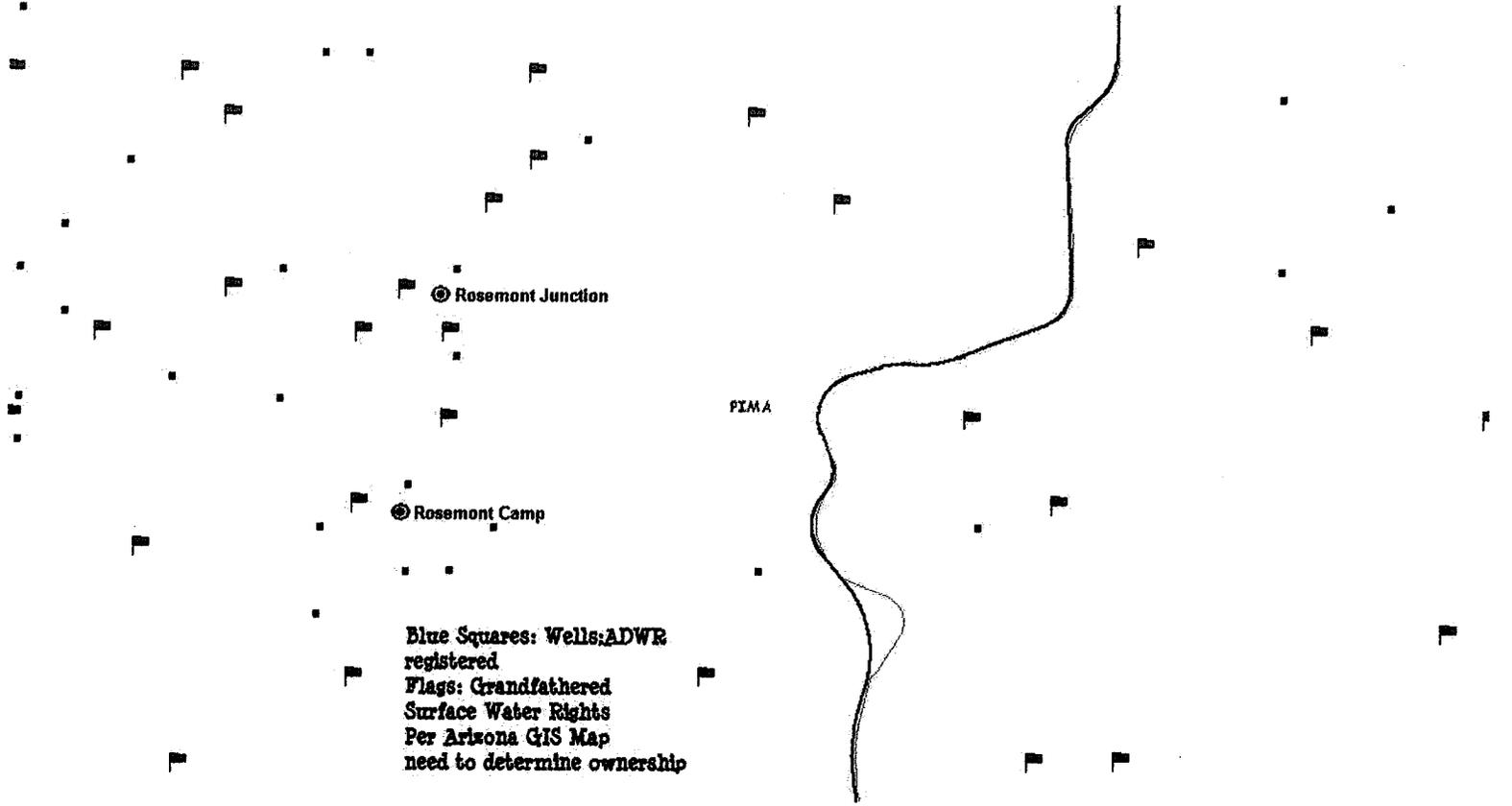
Lowland Leopard Frog Model:
Yellow:Low
Blue:Medium

As per SDCP GIS Map
For discussion only









● Rosemont Junction

● Rosemont Camp

PIMA

Blue Squares: Wells:ADWR
registered
Flags: Grandfathered
Surface Water Rights
Per Arizona GIS Map
need to determine ownership

2100



"TC Party"
<tcparty@msn.com>
03/12/2008 09:11 AM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Copper Project

Team Leader,

Never in the history of mining in the state of Arizona has there been a mining company willing to go to the lengths this plan of operations proposal goes to in order to protect the environment, reclaim concurrently, conserve water, and spend their own money to provide a water source to the adjoining community. Augusta has made their proposal and this entire process as transparent as glass and bent over backwards to provide a "different" type of plan only to meet up against the usual resistance. Make no mistake, this usual resistance is a very vocal MINORITY in the population surrounding this entire area; and it should not be considered the true voice of opinion for our community.

The metal industry is the backbone of all industries, be it infrastructure, physical plants and facilities, or heavy industry and consumer goods. Copper and moly are multi-purpose elements with innumerable benefits over other metals and are essential for various industries whether strategic or non-strategic to the citizens of these United States. Mining in general will pump in close to \$20 billion dollars into Arizona's economy this year with copper mining attributing nearly \$10 billion of those dollars. Typically, mining will bring high paying jobs and higher paying indirect jobs, not just unsustainable service industry type jobs brought in by tourism. A typical mining job brings with it 3-5 indirect jobs while a tourism job may attract 1 additional indirect job. Economic ore deposits can't be moved and can't be grown; they are where they are and unfortunately, involve impacting a significant acreage of land. While the vocal minority whom may ranch, occasionally visit, or occasionally recreate in this area will be against it, the majority of people in this area want the economic stimulus and tax base that this mining venture will provide.

I implore you to work with August to come up with the most socially and environmentally acceptable plan to the majority of citizens in this area and not fall in to the trap of sensationalism that is currently running rampant in the local press outlets. Neither the state of Arizona, citizens of the greater Tucson and surrounding communities, nor the Forest Service can afford to over look the benefits of a project of this magnitude while realizing that economic metallic ore deposits are not readily discovered in the United States anymore. This is a strategic and economically beneficial project that should move forward for the benefit of the citizens of greater Tucson and surrounding communities, Pima county, Arizona, and United States. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Thomas Calhoun



"Lynne Weatherby "
<lynne@utm.net>
03/23/2008 07:04 AM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: No Mining

Hello, I live in Patagonia Arizona and I wish to make my position know. There is delicateness to the Beautiful Mountain Empire that can be seen. There is a sacred order that has been established since the beginning of time. Please do not go ahead with this monster mine. Sonoita, Patagonia and Elgin are one of the few places on Earth where greed and destruction have been stayed. All who pass though this incredibly beautiful area know of what I speak. We all live with less who live there. It is worth it to keep one of Mother Nature's greatest achievements safe. NO mining Please.

Sincerely, Lynne Weatherby



LYNNE WEATHERBY
Associate Broker



INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

DIRECT 520-394-2244
OFFICE 520-455-5235
TOLL FREE 888-455-2840
EMAIL Lynne@utm.net

HIGHWAY 82 AND HIGHWAY 83 #2 PO BOX 331
SONOITA, AZ 85637



"Conor Flynn"
<conorpro@gmail.com>
03/22/2008 05:53 PM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: comments re: Rosemont Copper Project EIS

Please enter my comments in the record. Thank you.

My major concern is about plans for remediation, revegetation, and restoration in general. My concern stems from what I would consider the failure of other nearby mines to adequately restore the damaged (mined) sites. While Augusta is not nominally the same company responsible for these disasters, I believe the entire industry of open-pit mining should be held accountable for these failures. Plus, these failures do not bode well for the well-intentioned plans of Augusta Mining company.

Usually I have no quarrel with how private individuals conduct their business, but when their business affects my health and well-being I must speak up. Even the most casual freeway observer cannot help but note the monumental destruction wrought by mining in Southern Arizona. For those who live here, that scenic desecration is compounded by polluted water and air. Arsenic groundwater contamination has ruined much of our already scarce aquifers. Every time the wind blows I can see billowing clouds coming off the Sierita Mountain mines and I can feel it in my lungs and eyes.

I don't usually object to other people's business, but when that business gums up my vision and chokes my breath, I must speak up. The owners of the proposed Rosemont mine promise that their business will be different, that it will not have such ill effects, but the evidence of history speaks otherwise. Let's see the mining companies fix the mess they've already made before we even consider letting them make another one.

Conor Flynn
2222 E. La Madera
Tucson AZ 85719

2103



"walter smith"
<azsmithmn@msn.com
>
03/22/2008 11:26 AM

To: <marzberger@azleg.gov>, <malvarez@azleg.gov>, <jburns@azleg.gov>
cc: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
Subject: 3/20/08 meeting with the Forest Service at Patagonia High School

To District 25 Senator Marcia Arzberger, District 25 Representative Manny Alvarez, and District 25 Representative Jennifer Burns:

I attended a meeting on Thursday, March 20, at Patagonia, that seemed to me, as to many, an attempt by the Forest Service and Augusta Mining to "get around" the opposition of the people who are truly going to be negatively impacted by the proposed Rosemont Copper Project. The parking lot at Patagonia High was packed in anticipation of a question and answer session with the Forest Service, but it actually was a series of stations, a promotion of the project staffed by many Augusta employees and some Forest Service employees. It looked very much like avoidance of the overwhelming dissatisfaction of those who will bear the burden of water, air, and noise pollution; the loss of land that is incomparable in beauty and fragility; the probable loss of water resources; the destruction of watersheds; the loss of endangered and threatened species; the loss of tourism and recreational opportunities; negative economic impacts; and just the plain ugliness of open pit mines and mine dumps, an ugliness that will not change for millenniums. **They did not want to hear the people who live here, and so they chose to side-step our opposition. They chose not to hear us.**

The people who attended this failed "meeting" are not wild-eyed rebels. Most are conservative, reasonable adults with several years under their belts and legitimate concerns about the mine. They are conscientious citizens who vote, own homes and pay their taxes.

During the understandable protest that began there, the Patagonia Marshall called for back-up, and we had not only Forest Service guards armed with pistols, but also representatives from the Sheriff's Department and even Border Patrol Officers, one armed with a rifle. More than a few people there were reminded, as I was, of protests of the Vietnam era. It was disturbing.

I understand that people from Sahuarita, Green Valley and Tucson were told at earlier meetings that **they** would not even **see** the mine. Augusta knows ugliness when it proposes it! **We will see** the mine! So will anyone who travels SCENIC highway 83. It will be right in the middle of one of the most gorgeous views in southern Arizona. I also understand that Augusta packed the Tucson meeting with a couple of busloads of young people they had wined and dined and given job applications so they would be supporters of the proposal. This is shameful.

We are supposed to be part of the process. It is, after all, **our** environment about which the E.I.S. is being done...We wish to express our dissatisfaction with this process and stop it, if indeed the end is not already decided. **We need meetings in Patagonia and Sonoita, not just in Vail, with 30 days notice instead of the short times we have been getting, during which we can ask questions and receive answers to our questions.** This process is being run AROUND us. I do not think that is the way we should be treated. **Legal it may be; ETHICAL IT IS NOT.**

Sincerely,

Susan Smith

2104



"gm234@juno.com"
<gm234

03/22/2008 10:25 AM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: rosemont copper project eis

We were unfortunately unable to attend the Green Valley meeting, but I would like to ask my question using this forum.

The proposed project, as recognized, will have a significant economic and socio-economic impact on this geographic area. The question then becomes - Has the forest service conducted a recent benefit-cost analysis for the proposed rosemont copper project? If not, why not? When the benefit-cost study is available, will the results be made public in a timely fashion?

Regards,

Gary Lungstrum
862 W. Mountain Stone Dr.
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(520) 777-5251
gm234@juno.com

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<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL2121/fc/REAK6aAWm8AeTNxndaumZB6eork1W9NF2eYtFxdjZKvpT9zFhrYqvP/>



Cynthia Lunine
<clunine@theriver.com
>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Copper Project

03/22/2008 10:19 AM

To the USDA Forest Service:

The format you have selected for the NEPA scoping is unacceptable and maligns the intent of NEPA law for the reasons listed below. It should be retracted until appropriate and adequate documentation has been provided by Augusta and an adequate process has been redesigned for legitimate and significant public input:

I. Meetings were not adequately advertised to reach the bulk of the local population in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (as intended by federal law), most of whom do not read newspapers or bulletin boards in Post Offices. The mode of advertisement you selected is archaic and does not recognize 21st Century American culture. People are reachable by e-mail, text messaging, TV, radio, telephone, billboards, and direct mail. A negligible percentage will see the announcements of meetings in newspapers or on bulletin boards.

II. The meetings were not designed to allow public input, as intended by federal law.

III. The meetings are too few, too close together, and the comment period is too short to allow adequate public input as intended by federal law.

IV. Legitimate and peaceful public input in Patagonia the evening of March 20, 2008 was met with excessive use of law enforcement personnel and threats of accusation of "civil disobedience"; Forest Service personnel refused dialogue and left the area, leaving no recourse for the public. All available witnesses declared there was no threat or evidence of "civil disobedience". In every public encounter the Forest Service must recognize and address questions and not refuse dialogue. It is the facilitator of a public process, not the sole ruler of the process.

V. The three public meetings were not designed to provide significant or adequate information as to Augusta's plan for the Rosemont area--specifically, its likely effects on watersheds, contingencies to contain leakage (70% of modern open pit mines have been documented to leak toxic chemicals), water use as percentage of regional water availability in the projected life of the mine, air quality, safety for children (in school buses) and normal traffic on State Highway 83, the local economies for the projected life of the mine including "down" cycles (which can last for years), wildlife (birds, reptiles, mammals), soil stability and structure (erosional effects of overburden and tailings), astronomy (representing investments of many millions of dollars from taxpayers and private sources), recreational opportunities (including hunting, ORV, hiking, birdwatching, picnicing, camping, amateur astronomy) on Forest Service lands included in and adjacent to Rosemont.

VI. Augusta's Mining Plan of Operations, accepted by the Forest Service, is inadequate because it does not address the items detailed in para. IV, above and does not detail adequate mitigations and adequate funding for mitigations. It should not have been accepted by the Forest Service.

VII. Because the Mining Plan of Operations is inadequate, the Forest Service should not have initiated NEPA.

VIII. Because the process was so poorly designed, it suggests the Forest Service is favoring the mining company's interests above those of the public, who own the lands in question. The Forest Service must disclose all lobbying by mining interests and any influences that could possibly affect the noted undue acceleration of this process, including any memos or conversations from the Executive branch of the Federal government to Department of Agriculture and/or Forest Service personnel.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Lunine,
private citizen

P.O. Box 97
58 Callejon de los Sobaipuri
Sonoita, AZ 85637-0097

(520) 455-9274
clunine@theRiver.com

2106



Bud Stanley
<bdsjem10@yahoo.com
>

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Proposed Rosemont Copper Project-E.I.S.

03/22/2008 10:14 AM

I have several serious concerns with this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Green Valley/Sahuarita area is bounded on the west by the tailing piles and settling ponds from the several copper mines there. We are constantly enveloped by the dust from these, especially in the summer storm season from early June through September and into October. This situation can only be exasperated by the addition of the tailings which are going to be generated by the proposed Rosemont mine, even though it will supposedly be situated on the east side of the Santa Rita mountains. (It should be noted here that the most valuable ore deposits in this area are located on the WEST side of the Santa Rita mountains.) High winds from the east will most certainly carry dust from those tailings over the mountains and down into the Santa Cruz valley.

Water quality has already been seriously degraded by sulphates and other contaminants entering the ground water sources from which this area draws its drinking water. These contaminants emanate from the mine settling ponds to the west of us. Since the Rosemont mine will be drawing water from this same source, it stands to reason that contaminants from that mining operation will also leach down into our water supply and cause even further degradation.

Water quantity is already a major concern in this area. The offer by the Rosemont Corp. to bring a 20 inch pipeline into the area to provide C.A.P water is inconsequential as it cannot begin to carry sufficient amount of water to offset the amounts that the mine will be drawing from our aquifer.

A minimum pipe size of 72 inches would be required and even that were to be built, there is insufficient C.A.P water to fill it.

There are many ranches/residences in the area of the proposed mine which depend on private wells for their water supply. Their wells are, in many cases, only one or two hundred feet deep. The Rosemont Corp. has already drilled wells well beyond this depth which can only have far reaching negative effects on these existing private wells.

TRANSPORTATION

There will be an obvious need for very heavy duty transportation of equipment into the area in order to equip and sustain the proposed mine. This requirement will increase incrementally as the operation proceeds. Existing roadways and highways cannot sustain such traffic and I know of no plans to improve or augment these.

Mines of this proposed magnitude have historically required rail service to transport the resulting ore to the smelter. I cannot conceive of the amounts of ore all being transported via truck. Where would such a rail line originate from and what additional environmental damage would result from its construction and use?

PROCESSING

I have already touched on the subject of the required smelter, the nearest of which is many miles from the proposed Rosemont mine area. What is to prevent the building and firing of a smelter complex, including the many pre-smelting procedures, on or near the proposed area of this

mine? Where would the resulting slag piles, which become a permanent part of the landscape, be situated. What controls would be established to oversee this?

CONCLUSION

One only has to travel the areas west of Green Valley/Sahuarita to witness the depth of the damage caused by mining in this area. The proposals put forth by the Rosemont Corp. are intended to minimize such damage, but talk is cheap. Mining corporations have historically disfigured the topography of the State of Arizona and are continuing to do so to this day. This is not to say that said mining should be stopped but rather to point out the immensity of the damage and the almost non-existent efforts to minimize it. I seriously doubt that the proposed Rosemont mine will be any different in the long term.

Bernard D. and Jean E. Stanley
77 E. El Valle
Green Valley, AZ. 85614
520-399-1075
bdsjem10@yahoo.com

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"Gail Woodard"
<gail.woodard@gmail.com>

03/22/2008 12:15 AM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Proposed Rosemont Copper Mine - Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Caretaker of our National Forest --

Please consider the following as you process the request by Augusta Corp for the Rosemont Mine:

1. Traffic on Highway 83: This scenic, narrow, winding highway is already heavily traveled as the population in the Sonoita Valley increases. Adding huge trucks at a rate of several hundred a week to the mix of commuters, school buses, tourism traffic, motorcyclists and bicyclists is frightening to contemplate. Please be sure that your Environmental Impact Analysis includes a truthful evaluation of the dangers the Rosemont Mine Project presents to users of Scenic Highway 83.

2. Water: As you know, and as has been demonstrated by numerous studies, mines pollute local water supplies. Not only is our drinking water at risk, but also the water which serves our wildlife and plant life. Please err on the side of caution as you evaluate the impacts of this Mine Project on our limited and precious water supply.

3. Recreation: The area of the Rosemont Valley -- Forest Lands owned by us, the taxpayers -- are used by us, the taxpayers for recreation. Please don't take away our backyard and give it to a foreign corporation to destroy. Why would you do that?

4. Economics: In the Sonoita Valley, tourism (much of it eco-tourism) and real estate values will be profoundly and permanently damaged if this mine project is allowed to move forward. Whatever economic benefits Augusta Corp claims will help the area will NOT likely help our local area. Profits will go to Canada. Jobs and tax dollars will more likely benefit Tucson and Pima County. Please be thorough and truthful in your economic analysis -- taking into consideration the impact on the local Sonoita Valley where the mine will be sited.

5. Air and Noise Pollution: This is a peaceful, clean valley. There are not so many places like this left in our country today. I am very concerned about the way this Mine Project will ruin our clean air and will turn our rural environment into an industrial, noisy, messy world. The people AND the animals here deserve your protection and oversight as you evaluate this proposal. Please consider the detrimental effects on our air quality and quiet natural environment.

Thank you for your careful analysis of this Project. Please remember that you are the Caretakers of OUR National Forest. Please don't allow it to be destroyed. Thank you.

Gail Woodard
P.O. Box 102
Sonoita, AZ 85637

2108



Mark Luce
<eculem@earthlink.net
>

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc: Joni.Jones@mail.house.gov
Subject: Re: rosemont mine

03/21/2008 05:59 PM
Please respond to Mark
Luce

Dear Sirs.

Please accept these comments regarding mining operations in the Tortillita Mountains of Southern Arizona.

I have been a frequent visitor to this area over the last 15 years, as a hiker and previous owner of property at the foot of the hills off LaCholla Blvd. This area still contains many pristine locations of beautiful Sonoran desert habitat that would be very adversely affected by mining in this area. As this is such an excellent preserve so close to a metropolitan area, I feel the preservation and personal experience opportunities are by far the higher value use.

I am thankful for this chance to comment.

Sincerely,

Mark Luce
8263 E Pima St
Tucson AZ 85715

2109



Harold Paxton
<hp01@andrew.cmu.ed
u>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Copper

03/21/2008 03:32 PM

Attn. Beverly Everson.

My wife and I were able to attend the open house at Canoa Hills on Wednesday evening and appreciated the chance to learn more about the proposed mine. I would comment that the Rosemont people with whom I had discussions were apparently only knowledgeable about pieces of the project and so often I would get unsatisfactory answers to the "big picture". My cynical mind wondered if this was deliberate.

I should also comment that I have been involved in metallurgy and mining for my whole professional life (partial c.v. attached). Perhaps the most pertinent activity came when I was V.P. of research at U.S. Steel when I had technical responsibility for world wide activities in mining iron ore, coal, limestone, manganese, and uranium (not copper except as general interest during my term as President of AIME.)

I have three major points.

1. The water question has been a concern for all in Green Valley because of declining availability. My technical question is the purity of water necessary to carry out effective flotation for concentration of the sulfide ore on a continuing basis. Since this process depends on surface activity, and is sensitive to trace elements, it would help answer the question of how much "new" water is necessary from the aquifer, and how much could be recycled.
2. I think I understood that the sulfide concentrate would be shipped to a smelter north of here, without a specific location that I could find. Since it appears that more than 100,000 tonnes per year would be shipped, I could not get an answer as to how this would be done. I can not speak as a civil engineer as to possible damage to Rte. 93 which would be caused by truck traffic, but I think of this narrow 2 lane road as fairly fragile. Most mines have dedicated roads or more usually rail lines to accept responsibility for the infrastructure. (One of my first jobs at USS was to assist with a 900 mile railroad through the tropical jungle of Brazil from the iron ore mine at Carajas to the port).
3. My final point is more in the area of aesthetics. The tailings pond and waste rock area are to be largely on Forest Service land and quite close to Rte. 93 (< 1 mile?). I don't know the legal issues here but the visual impact is disquieting.

If I can help you in any way, please feel free to contact me.

Harry Paxton,
1938 W. Acacia Bluffs Drive,
Green Valley, AZ 85614
Tel: 520 777 3629



cv 2007.doc

HAROLD W. PAXTON

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (1/30/07)

H.W. Paxton is the U.S. Steel University Professor (Emeritus) of Metallurgy and Materials Science at Carnegie Mellon University. He received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in 1947 and 1948 from the University of Manchester and his Ph.D. in 1952 from the University of Birmingham. In 1953 he became Assistant Professor of Metallurgical Engineering at Carnegie Institute of Technology, subsequently Carnegie Mellon University, and became Head of the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Science and Director of the Metals Research Laboratory at Carnegie Mellon in 1966. He was Visiting Professor of Metallurgy and Materials Science at Imperial College, London, in 1962-63 and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1970 and served two years as the first Director, Division of Materials Research, National Science Foundation 1971-1973. He is a consultant to industry and has authored many technical papers, primarily in the field of physical metallurgy. He also co-authored a book, "Alloying Elements in Steel", with the late Dr. E.C. Bain. From 1974 to 1986, he was associated with the United State Steel Corporation, serving as V.P. Research and eventually V.P. Corporate Research and Technology Assessment. Dr. Paxton received the Bradley Stoughton Award for Young Teachers of Metallurgy in 1960. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the National Academy of Engineering, and Directors of Industrial Research, Fellow of the American Society for Metals and The Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Society of AIME (TMS); Past President of TMS; Past Chairman of the General Research Committee of the American Iron and Steel Institute; and 1982 President of American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers.

Dr. Paxton was selected as the 1978 ASM Edward DeMille Campbell Memorial Lecturer. In 1982 he was the BCRA Carbonization Science Lecturer and also the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Lecturer. In 1983, Dr. Paxton gave the ASM Zay Jeffries Lecture. Late in 1983 he received the ASM Gold Medal for the Advancement of Research. In 1985, he was elected an Honorary Member of the Iron and Steel Institute of Japan, and delivered

the Yukawa Memorial Lecture to that Institute. In 1987 he gave the Harold Moore Lecture to the Institute of Metals (London). In 1990, he was invited to give one of the keynote lectures at the 6th International Iron & Steel Congress in Nagoya, Japan, was an AIME Krumb Lecturer, Andrew Carnegie Lecturer, and Sauveur Lecturer. In 1991, he was elected an Honorary Member of AIME. He has also lectured in France, the U.K., Holland, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Poland, China, and the former USSR.

2150



Vail Arizona
<vailaz@hotmail.com>
03/20/2008 03:28 PM

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Ignoring the impacted communities of Rural Arizona? Proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS, Coronado N

Ms. Everson,

After attending two of the "Open House" Style meetings it has come to my attention that many feel very disengaged and disenfranchised from the spirit of the NEPA. As someone who is new to the process, I was unaware that there were other styles of running these meetings.

Since speaking with Mr. Carbone, Assistant Director for National Environmental Policy Act in the Ecosystem Management Coordination branch of the Forest Service in Washington D.C. I have learned that there is no required way in which to hold scoping. He did say; however, that he has attended a variety of different scoping meetings to include a round table format, discussions and so forth.

As I have mentioned in other emails, we have a long journey ahead of us and we all want to see the best job done in a very delicate situation. I sincerely hope you will reconsider this "Open House" style format in which individuals are unable to do more than drop off comments in an unguarded box and look at vague project boards.

Additionally, while one of the areas which would feel immediate direct impacts -the Vail/Cienega Corridor is now scheduled to have a public meetings, two other communities which would also be directed impacted- Sonoita and Sahuarita still do not (to my knowledge) have meetings scheduled.

I know that the Forest Service has been made aware that Arizona State Trust Land has issued a lease for Cal Portland to mine north of the proposed Rosemont Project in the Davidson Canyon area and is negotiations for the Seel Mine in the Davidson Canyon as well. Both Kinder Morgan (petroleum) and El Paso (natural gas) bladed a pseudo-highway wide enough to serve as the cross town freeway while installing new pipes. I have not even spoken of the aggregate clay and gravel mines north of Interstate Ten. The Sahuarita area is suffering from subsidence. There are proposed mines south of the proposed Rosemont Project. This region is being and has been raped by a vast number of environmental polluters. I fear that continuing to ignore the will of the public will result in anarchy and implore you to listen to the pleas of those from communities who stand to endure the greatest direct impacts to change the format and add additional meetings.

On a more specific level for the meetings as they stand,

I would also like to request map boards which show the following:

1. The proposed project area with each specific land owning jurisdiction shown beneath-including those land jurisdictions needed for utility infrastructure.
2. The geology of the underlying area

3. All of the existing and proposed well types as per ADWR, including those in both the Rosemont and Augusta corporation names and the grandfathered surface water rights.
4. The names of the canyons and streams that will be affected by the dry dam structures as shown in the current map boards. (see enclosed .jpg.)

Also, as many of us leave work directly and drive an hour or more to attend these meetings it would be helpful to have some other snacks aside from sugary cookies. Our input is not frivolous and our community building is a valuable resource. I am sure you understand the value of volunteerism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Webb
Vail/Cienega Corridor Volunteer
247-3838

Watch "Cause Effect," a show about real people making a real difference. [Learn more.](#)

Z111



Tomhanson3@aol.com

03/21/2008 02:31 PM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us

cc:

Subject: Proposed Rosemont Copper Project

Ms. Beverly Everson/Ms. Andrea Wargo Campbell- Last night we attended a "meeting" at the Patagonia High School in hopes that you folks would discuss this issues concerning the Rosemont Copper project. No meeting was held. When we attempted to start one. everyone packed up and left. It was supposed to go from 6:00 to 8:00. I live in Sonoita. I was home by 7:00. Needless to say,we were disappointed. We requestt that you reschedule and discuss in a proper meeting format with an agenda the issues that effect the final approval of this project.
Tom Hanson

Create a Home Theater Like the Pros: [Watch the video on AOL Home.](#)



"Richard Calabro "
<r.a.calabro@att.net>
03/21/2008 12:57 AM
Please respond to
"Richard Calabro"

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS

2112

Date: Friday, March 21, 2008
From: Richard A. Calabro
3055 S. Placita Del Avestruz
Green Valley, AZ 85614-1000
Tel. 520 648-0624
Fax 520 648-0647
e-mail: r.a.calabro@att.net
To: Rosemont Team Leader
Subject: Proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS

In the announcement of the public scoping sessions specify what the format of the meeting is. It is very helpful to the public if the USFS describes the scoping session as being preliminary to the EIS public hearings. It is an informal open house with exhibits and specialists at tables to brief the public in a one-on-one setting on the proposed mine and on the EIS process. Comments and questions may be directed to the specialists. Emphasize that these are not public hearings and no opportunity is provided for any individual to publicly address an assembled audience.

Explain in the announcement of the public scoping sessions that written comments and questions may be brought to the meeting or written on a form provided at the meeting, and submitted to the USFS. Specify the additional time provided during the scoping process for submitting written comments and questions, and the ways to do that. Explain that if some issues and concerns are not raised during the scoping process it might be too late to consider them later.

Include as "cooperating agencies" in the EIS process Pima County, the AZ Department of Environmental Quality, the federal Bureau of Land Management, the AZ State Office of Historic Preservation and the towns and communities who will be directly affected by the proposed mine, such as Sahuarita, Green Valley, Vail, Corona de Tucson, Sonoita and Patagonia.

Additionally, schedule public scoping sessions in Vail, Corona de Tucson, and Sonoita. These areas face major impacts should this proposed mine be approved. After the public scoping sessions and the initial public comment period, schedule additional public meetings to work on the scope of the EIS. This gives the public an opportunity to provide more input as the scoping process advances.

Extend the time for the initial public comment period to 120 days.

2113



"david pepper"
<davidpepper@earthlink.net>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc: "james dowd" <flat5sub@hotmail.com>
Subject: Rosemont Copper Project

03/20/2008 10:07 AM

My name is David Pepper and I live in Vail, Az close to SR 83. This is the main thoroughfare for incoming and outgoing trucks at the proposed open pit mine.

The detrimental impact on the health and well being of all persons living near or around this proposed mine outweigh the economic benefit to the area. In fact it will deter future development and fiscal growth for all of southeastern Arizona for years. I find it hard to believe that the mine is proceeding with grading and roads. The plat survey must have been completed long ago and it seems that no matter what the mine is moving forward. How can this be stopped at this point. I have signed petitions years ago and letters have been sent to the governor. I find it appalling that this location was approved and all efforts to stop this project have fallen on deaf ears. Hopefully the powers that approved this live close by (not likely).

Sincerely,
David D. Pepper
3940 E. Sheldon Place
Vail, AZ 85641

214



John Sonderegger
<jsonder@yahoo.com>
03/19/2008 08:41 PM

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: SWCA qualifications as lead consultant on the Rosemont EIS

When talking with them at the meeting in Green Valley, none of the SWCA staff knew what ARD (acid rock drainage) was. Taking them up on the "check our website to see our qualifications" statement leads one to a corporate web page that suggests little or no metal mining experience.

What in the world was the USFS thinking when this firm was hired?

John Sonderegger
654 E. Corte Pasadera Cobrizo
Green Valley, AZ 85614

John Sonderegger jsonder@yahoo.com
<http://members.cox.net/jsonder59>
Propelled by Penguin Power
Nekid bikes feel faster
Hi to the government e-mail snoops; hope
that you aren't too bored by my mail ;-)

Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your home page.
<http://www.yahoo.com/r/hs>

2115



"JUDY BRYDON"
<montone.dreams@wild
blue.net>

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Fwd: Rosemont Open Pit Mine

03/19/2008 04:23 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **JUDY BRYDON** <montone.dreams@wildblue.net>

Date: Mar 19, 2008 4:10 PM

Subject: Rosemont Open Pit Mine

To: southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us

I wish to register my voice against the approval of the Augusta Resource/Rosemont Copper open pit mine. It will destroy the water table and the unique eco-system that the Santa Rita Mountains encompass.

I also wish to comment on the NEPA Review Meeting held last night at Pima College. I believe that Augusta Resource, namely Jamie Sturgess made a farce of this public opinion process by bussing in people with little or no information on the mine or what it will entail.

I do hope the Forestry Service will give the public a chance to voice a negative opinion on this issue and will not let Sturgess overpower the meetings tonight and tomorrow night.

Respectfully,
Judy Brydon

2116



"Richard Calabro "
<r.a.calabro@att.net>
03/19/2008 01:18 AM
Please respond to
"Richard Calabro"

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS.

I am submitting the attached comments on the proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS.

Richard A. Calabro
3055 S. Placita Del Avestruz
Green Valley, AZ 85614-1000
Tel. 520 648-0624
Fax 520 648-0647



e-mail: r.a.calabro@att.net Comments Rosemont Copper Project EIS.doc

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2008
From: Richard A. Calabro
3055 S. Placita Del Avestruz
Green Valley, AZ 85614-1000
Tel. 520 648-0624
Fax 520 648-0647
E-mail r.a.calabro@att.net

To: Rosemont Team Leader
Subject: Proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS

I was curious about the private consultant, SWCA, that the Forest Service "selected" to assist them in preparing the Proposed Rosemont Copper Project EIS, so I did some research and found the following at the SWCA website <http://swca.com/projectsample/31>. It concerns the work SWCA did for Phelps Dodge:

Dos Pobres / San Juan Environmental Impact Statement for Phelps Dodge Safford, Inc
Safford, Graham County, Arizona

Overview:

SWCA, under contract to Phelps Dodge Safford, Inc., prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) and a Mining Plan of Operations (MPO) for a proposed land exchange between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Phelps Dodge. The exchange, which had been in progress for more than 10 years, involved the transfer of nearly 4,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land from Phelps Dodge to the BLM. In return, the BLM transferred more than 16,000 acres of land to the mining company for the development of two open pit copper mines.

Services Provided:

- Researched legal constraints and other issues surrounding the land exchange
- Completed baseline data collection
- Prepared EIS and coordinated NEPA process
- Responded to more than 1,000 public comments on the EIS draft
- Completed the Record of Decision

Results:

The final EIS resulted in the identification and preservation of dozens of properties that contain rare and important natural and cultural resources. In appreciation of our service, Phelps Dodge granted SWCA an award. During the award ceremony, Phelps Dodge's John Korolsky said, "We understood the complex nature of this exchange and the accompanying EIS. We decided from the outset that we were going to hire the very best to help us facilitate this process with the Bureau of Land Management. That's why we hired SWCA, and they delivered."

There's a clear conflict of interest here.

At the NEPA website http://www.nepa.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf, page 4 says: Frequently, private individuals or companies will become involved in the NEPA process when they need a permit issued by a Federal agency. When a company applies for a permit (for example, for crossing federal lands or impacting waters of the United States) the agency that is being asked to issue the permit must evaluate the environmental effects of the permit decision under NEPA. Federal agencies might require the private company or developer to pay for the preparation of analyses, but the agency remains responsible for the scope and accuracy of the analysis.

From this one expects that the Federal agency does the NEPA analysis, contracts with a private consultant, and sends the bill to the applicant. Sounds fair. What actually happens is that the Federal agency "selects" the private consultant, and the private consultant contracts out to the applicant to do the NEPA analysis.

For the Phelps Dodge project, SWCA prepared the EIS and coordinated the NEPA process, responded to more than 1,000 public comments on the EIS draft, and completed the Record of Decision. Basically the whole NEPA process was done by someone working for the applicant.

The bias of SWCA in favor of their client, Phelps Dodge, is revealed in their referring to the land that Phelps Dodge traded as being "environmentally sensitive", but they do not call any of the BLM land, which is four times the size, environmentally sensitive.

To Phelps Dodge, "the very best", SWCA, is the one who delivers the goods for the applicant, not for the Federal agency who is charged with protecting land in the public domain. I strongly object to the conflict of interest that the Federal agencies have tolerated in this NEPA process. Unless these conflicts and SWCA are removed from the process, this EIS for the proposed Rosemont Copper Project has no credibility.

2117



sj pevarnik
<sjpevarnik@yahoo .co
m>

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: rosemont mine

03/18/2008 09:31 PM

Dear Sirs-We are unable to attend the meeting regarding the Rosemont mine in the Santa Rita Mountains. We are opposed to the proposed mine as my husband and I live in the Vail area and feel that our lives would be greatly affected by this mine.

We are concerned about the problems of water and air pollution, traffic of mine related operations and damage of a pristine area. The gains for the community would not justify the amount of problems that it would create for all of us.

Thank you for taking time to hear our position on this matter.

Sincerely, Joan and Stephen Pevarnik

Looking for last minute shopping deals?
Find them fast with Yahoo! Search.
<http://tools.search.yahoo.com/newsearch/category.php?category=shopping>

2118



"Barbara Cain "
<birdcain@hotmail.com
>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Mine

03/18/2008 06:46 PM

I remember many pleasant picnics and aimless rambles in the Rosemont area. My father-in-law often hunted in the region. It remains a special place in my memory. I can't believe you are rushing to see it destroyed with an open-pit mine! The dust, congestion, pollution, great water use, and just plain ugliness in a scenic area should stop this travesty in OUR National Forest. Do not allow the Rosemont area to be mined!

Barbara M. Cain
3489 N. Camino La Jicarrilla
Tucson, AZ 85712

2119



amartin
<rockhound13@earthlink.net>

To: comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Rosemont Copper Project, Pima Co. AZ

03/18/2008 04:43 PM
Please respond to
amartin

Straight to the Point.

I do not want another Open Pit Copper Mine in Pima County especially in my back yard of Corona De Tucson near the Santa Rita Mountains. AND NEITHER DO MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THIS AREA AND TO THE EAST!!!!

Mines in the State of AZ create 85 per cent of the Polution.

Clean Water should be our highest priority (some are talking of having to use recycle waste water for Drinking UGH!) Mines DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO CLEAN WATER THEY ONLY CONTANMINATE IT. LOOK TO THE STATE OF MONTANA FOR THE FACTS. I have heard that the Augusta Mine Corp the holding company is drilling wells west of Sauhaurita road and Houghton Which will deplete our all ready over used water supply.

A Beautiful Area will be destroyed (look at the mess to West of Green Valley) Restoration in an open Pit mine is impossible.

The Jobs created will be short term and will be lost as soon as the price of Copper falls as evidenced by the past mine bankruptcy and closures in Pima County and elsewhere in the State.

In addition why isn't a public hearing be held in the area most effected by this Mine. Corona De Tucson, the Empire fagan Valley, Davidson Canyon and Vail? Residents along 83 to Sonita.

A. Martin
Corona De Tucson

2120



C Muller
<airmuller@hotmail.co
m>

To: <comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: FW: Urgent Message re Rosemont Mine

03/18/2008 04:24 PM

Sirs,

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed mining operation by Augusta Resource Corporation in the Santan Anita Mountain range. I grew up in Sonoita and went to school in Patagonia. My wife did as well. She grew up in Gardener Canyon. I have spent a good deal of my life in this amazing wilderness. I have seen things there that I will remember for my whole life. My children have grown to love the mountain as I have. One day, my ashes will spend eternity there.

I have also seen the destruction that a mining operation can bring to an area first hand. The areas that I have seen raped by mining, did not hold much in the way of beauty. The Santa Ritas are a special place and need to be off limits to any commercial use.

I wish I could extend my passion in person at these public meetings. I am sure my fellow citizens will get their point across.

Please send the carpet bagging mining companies elsewhere.

Craig Muller
Port Deposit, Maryland

> >

> > The Forest Service just announced three public meetings scheduled NEXT
> > WEEK for the proposed Rosemont mine in the Santa Rita Mountains As you
> > know, the Forum Board has voted to oppose the mine, and I believe most
> > members share our concern that a huge, open pit copper mine at the
> > foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains will forever alter a unique
> > landscape and threaten the viability of key aquifers.

> >

> > These meetings are being held despite the fact that Augusta Resource
> > Corporation has not yet completed the studies and documentation called for
> > when the Forest Service rejected their second Mining Plan of
> > Operation. Scoping meetings are designed to give the public time early
> > on in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to express
> > their concerns with a proposal. The Federal lead agency (in this case
> > the Forest Service) is supposed to take these early public comments into
> > account when they prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Recent
> > court rulings make it clear that if an issue with a proposal is NOT
> > brought up during the scoping process, it is difficult to object or
> > litigate on that issue later in the process.

> >

> > It is ESSENTIAL for our community to make our voices heard at next week's
> > meetings! A key message to the Forest Service should be: "Stop the Rush"
> > so that the public has a full opportunity for complete and measured
> > comment. Following that message, it would be helpful to list carefully
> > your objections to the mine during these public meetings (possible
> > talking points, developed by Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, with input from
> > many Forum members are summarized below).

> >

>> THE PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- >>
- >> * Tuesday, Mar.18, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Pima Community College Desert Vista Campus, 5901 South Calle Santa Cruz, Tucson.
- >> * Wednesday, Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m, Canoa Hills Recreation Center, 3660 South Camino del Sol, Green Valley.
- >> * Thursday, Mar. 20, 6 p.m.- 8 p.m., Patagonia Union High School, Highway 82, Patagonia.

>> If you are unable to attend the meetings, please send in your written concerns. Deadline for written comments is April 18. Email: <mailto:comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us>comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us or Fax: 388-8305, ATTN: Rosemont Team Leader or mail letters to:

- >> Team Leader
- >> Rosemont Copper Project, Coronado National Forest
- >> 300 W. Congress St.
- >> Tucson, Arizona 85701

>> =====

>> PROPOSED TALKING/WRITING POINTS

>> (1) APROPOS THE IMPACT OF THE MINE

- >> * The Rosemont Copper Project would be located 30 miles southeast of Tucson, in Pima County, on approximately 995 acres of private land; 3,670 acres of National Forest land; 15 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and 75 acres of State Trust land.
- >> * With the outdated 1872 Mining Laws still in place, an estimated 230,000 acres of public land in Arizona have already been sold to private interests for \$2.50 or \$5.00 per acre.
- >> * The EPA reports that in 2005, metal or hardrock mining in Arizona released over 39.4 million pounds of toxins.
- >> * Pima County commissioned and submitted a hydrogeological study to the Coronado that raised the threat of surrounding groundwater and surface water depletion from pumping out an open pit copper mine, as well as potential leaching of pollutants into groundwater.
- >> * The Sky Islands of the Coronado National Forest are a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot.
- >> * The Santa Rita Mountains and surrounding desert and grassland seas are globally recognized for the diversity of birds, reptiles, amphibians, bees and plants.
- >> * Augusta has no track record in mining and the mining industry has a dismal environmental record.
- >> * Augusta wants to fill in Barrel, Wasp, McCleary, and Scholefield Canyons, yet claims no impact to the Cienega Creek watershed.
- >> * Of the 117 million dollars Augusta claims in community commitments, 67 million dollars of that is actually just costs associated with the business of mining.
- >> * Augusta claims 350 jobs, but mining jobs are transitory as part of the mining bust and boom cycle. In reality, the mine will recreate