

Potential Impacts of Mining in the San Rafael Valley and Surrounding Mountains

Although the impacts to the area from individual mining operations might not seem severe, the cumulative impact of numerous large-scale industrial mining projects could have significant negative effects including:

- Impacts to the current economic and recreational uses of the area (ranching, hunting, hiking, birding, etc).
- Destruction of habitat and disruption of migration routes in an area that is home to several threatened or endangered species.
- Degradation of surface and groundwater quantity and quality (mining and drilling operations use substantial amounts of water).
- Contamination of the Santa Cruz River headwaters, the only unspoiled segment of the entire watercourse.
- Impacts to air quality.
- Noise associated with mining and drilling.
- Violation of Santa Cruz County's "dark skies" initiative (there are multiple professional and amateur observatories in the area).
- Significant degradation of the visual resources of the area.
- Significant increases in traffic on local roads.

Please stay informed about upcoming milestones as multiple companies try to move forward with plans to mine in the area. Visit our website (www.alandinbalance.org) for updates, provide comments to the National Forest Service and other regulatory agencies, volunteer to help us protect this unique resource, or donate so that we can represent those who use and love the area.

San Rafael Valley Watershed *A Land In Balance*

We are a not-for-profit charitable organization created to protect the diverse community culture, the long-term economic viability, and the healthy ecosystem of the San Rafael Valley watershed in southern Arizona. This watershed exists as a beautiful, non-fragmented and relatively undisturbed area from the peaks of the Patagonia Mountains, the Canelo Hills and the Huachuca Mountains to the sweeping grasslands of the valley below.

Our primary goal is to ensure that the multiple-use aspect of this precious resource are not compromised. No single use - specifically large scale industrial mining - should be allowed to overshadow other uses. Although mining may bring short-term gains to the local economy, the cumulative long-term impacts of multiple mining operations will change the very nature of the area.

Please visit our website for more information about our mission or to become involved.

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Patagonia Mountains & The San Rafael Valley

A Land In Balance



The unspoiled beauty of the San Rafael Valley and surrounding mountains is a unique resource and habitat. *A Land In Balance* is a not-for-profit organization committed to sustaining the rich and diverse uses and history of the area.

The cumulative impact of large-scale mining operations within the San Rafael Valley and in the surrounding mountains threaten to forever change the character of the entire area.

Please help us protect the fragile balance of the San Rafael Valley watershed!

The San Rafael Valley watershed and surrounding mountains currently support a wide variety of activities (ranching, hunting, hiking, birding and many other recreational activities). *A Land In Balance* is striving to maintain the character of the area without allowing any one activity to adversely impact the others. Our immediate concern is mining. Mining has historically been a part of the local economy, but the scale of the operations recently proposed is without precedent. The proposed exploration and mining projects encompass an area of approximately 60 square miles.

As of early 2020, there are at least four mining proposals that could negatively impact the San Rafael watershed:

- **San Antonio Project** (Barksdale Resources)- A proposed drilling project that could lead to an open-pit copper mine.
- **South 32** - A deep underground mine and associated processing facilities.
- **Sunnyside Project** (Barksdale) - 30 exploratory drill holes on public land.
- **Four Metals Project** (Barksdale) - Various mineral deposits, adjoining South 32's operations.

Help us ensure that the beauty and diversity of the area are not sacrificed for the benefit of global mining interests*. Short-term economic gains must be judiciously weighed against the long-term cumulative impacts of multiple mining projects potentially in operation for decades to come.

*South32 is a mining and metals company headquartered in Perth, Western Australia. It was spun out of BHP Billiton in 2015.

*Barksdale Resources is a spin-off of a Canadian mining exploration company that is focused on the acquisition and exploration of base metal resources *in the United States*.

