

April 2, 2016

BLM Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces NM 88005

Comments Regarding the Copper Flat Copper Mine DEIS

I am a retired medical doctor living on **Ex 6** downwind of the proposed copper mine. BLM has downplayed potential impacts to public health, clean air and water, and wildlife habitat. An analysis of these impacts should be based on actual records of similar operations, rather than on undocumented assumptions. This is a problem throughout the DEIS.

I find it particularly egregious that BLM is assuring residents – based on very limited information – that a clay bed will protect the riparian habitat of my home. Then, rather than use the best-documented methodology in calculating the recharge of the aquifer, an out of date method is used, thus minimizing the permanent loss of water.

The document does not address acute and chronic health effects to local residents downwind from the mine, including in T or C. While the mine may be able to suppress dust most of the time, there is no excuse for not considering the impacts of dust dispersal during the dry windy days common to this area, or during extreme weather events. Small particles travel farther as well as lodging deeper into lungs. Asarco's Mission Mine in Arizona is a good example; dust deposited during storms in 2009 continues to be a health problem years later.

Many college educated retirees participated in BLM's scoping meeting, so the fact that they are not represented in the socioeconomic picture painted by the DEIS is a deliberate skewing of data. I chose to live here because of the beauty of the sycamores and the wildlife supported by this unique riparian habitat. My home – and the homes of my friends – add significantly to the tax base and economy of Sierra County.

I oppose the Copper Flat mine.

Jordan M. Holloway

Jordan M. Holloway, MD

Ex 6