

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

December 2012

Since our August 2012 report to the community, here's what we've been up to!

- As a result of new permitting challenges requiring more thorough environmental analysis due to our previous lawsuit, Wildcat Silver has abandoned their plans for exploratory drilling on Coronado National Forest lands and jumped ahead to submitting a open pit Mine Plan of Operations. This now shifts Wildcat's timeline from one year to the lengthy environmental review process that Rosemont has been undergoing for the last five years. Our experience to date, your support, and our vigilance has positioned us with our partner organizations to strongly challenge every aspect of Wildcat's open pit Mine Plan of Operations.
- Due to PARA's ongoing efforts to bring attention to the threatened biodiversity of the Patagonia Mountains:
 - We hosted biologists from the Southwest Defender's of Wildlife office for a tour of the proposed drilling and mining sites.
 - We hosted our lawyers from Defenders of Wildlife. They traveled from Washington D.C. for three days of meetings and field work.
 - We co-wrote a grant with Sky Island Alliance to provide information and advocacy for the watersheds, natural and cultural resources of the Patagonia Mountains, including the training of Patagonia-area volunteers as Citizen Scientists. Stay tuned for upcoming dates.
 - PARA, the Arizona Trails Association Executive Director and a member of the Patagonia Town Council met with Mark Ruggiero, the new Sierra Vista District Ranger for the Coronado National Forest to introduce ourselves and establish a positive working relationship regarding the challenges being faced by the Patagonia community.
 - We've had a number of meetings with Congressman Raul Grijalva and staff. After our meetings, he wrote several letters to decision makers regarding the importance of preserving and protecting the Patagonia Mountains.



Congressman Grijalva and his doppelganger (Wendy Russell) at a Halloween event. He loved the bolo!

- PARA submitted comments with Defenders of Wildlife and Save the Scenic Santa Ritas regarding the proposed critical habitat for Jaguar recovery in the Patagonia and Santa Rita Mountains.
- Our short documentary, *Mining Patagonia* by Michele Gisser, has been accepted as one of the films in the 2013 National Wild & Scenic Film Festival. This festival celebrates the natural and wild world through environmental and adventure films. Our story will now be in front of film audiences nationwide.
- At the September 6, 2012 public meeting, Forest Service officials informed us that the Town of Patagonia received the official municipal watershed designation for Harshaw Creek, which will be added as an addendum to the new Forest Service Plan. PARA provided the impetus to the town for the municipal watershed designation.
- Since our new website has come online June 1st, we've delivered roughly 8000 page views. We update our website frequently. We have detailed pages for each mining company and their proposed actions with maps and press releases. We update our News page with local, state and national news items that affect our area. We blog weekly on those issues that warrant more depth. Our website also includes a calendar of local events and a business page with links to our local businesses and organizations. Check it out!
- We monitor and post throughout the day to our social network sites, Facebook and Twitter. We have a lot to share about the mining practices in Arizona and around the world. Our followers also have lots to say. In addition, we promote all the events happening in Patagonia. Aside from personal interactions, it's one of our most active outreach tools. We've doubled our followers on Facebook and Twitter since June 2012.
- Our Action Alerts are empowering citizens. 240 people have taken action on one or more of our Action Alerts. We use Action Alerts to monitor federal and state legislation that could affect our area. When action needs taken, we make it as easy as we can for YOU by having the letters to decision makers already written - you just need to sign and hit the send the button!
- We're in the process of developing plans for a new video series to promote biking and hiking in our area. Funds for this project will come from sponsorships by local businesses -- we hope! Please contact us if you'd like more information.

A FINAL WORD

As you can see, a lot has been accomplished in 2012. We're happy about the delays created for the mining companies, but delays are temporary. We're still in the middle of an environmental review process for two drilling plans, OZ and Regal Resources. They both have upcoming comment periods slated for February 2013. Sulfate Resources is working on an exploratory drilling plan for the area around Red Mountain. Regarding Wildcat Silver, the Forest Service has been unable to give us a timeline for public review and comment periods for their open pit mine plan of operations. Also, keep an eye out for our Citizen Science workshop schedule with Sky Island Alliance. Your financial contributions are critical to PARA's ongoing work and necessary for us to continue our mission.