

Patagonia Area Resource Alliance

Report to the Community *2013 Activities and Accomplishments*

The Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) and Sky Island Alliance (SIA) were awarded a grant from Patagonia® Inc to gather information about the Patagonia Mountains. The grant also included training of Patagonia-area volunteers as Citizen Scientists and Advocates.

With the grant we were able to:

- Host a Citizens Advocacy Workshop with SIA to empower residents to get involved and respond to the threats of new mining and drilling.
- Host a wildlife tracking workshop in the Patagonia Mountains with SIA experts Jessica Moreno and Sergio Avila.
 - With the record number of attendees, we are now able to monitor 3 new transects in the Patagonia Mountains for wildlife activity.
- Host a BioBlitz Event for the Patagonia Mountains with Dr. Tom Van Devender of Sky Island Alliance and scientists from all over the Southwest.
 - 30 experts representing organizations such as University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Borderlands Restoration, Nature Conservancy, Southeast Arizona Butterfly Association, Ravens-Way Wild Journeys, Hummingbird Monitoring Network and Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum attended the event.
- Participate in Board workshops facilitated by SIA Executive Director Melanie Emerson.

PARA successfully made the case that the scoping period for Regal Resources Sunnyside mineral drilling proposal in Humboldt Canyon should be re-opened.

- We advocated and reasoned with the Sierra Vista District Ranger that the potential decision be made using current rather than outdated information. He concurred and ultimately gave us all two additional years to prepare data for more comprehensive scoping comments that can accurately articulate the broadest range of potential impacts.

PARA rallied community members to submit scoping comments regarding Regal Resources Sunnyside proposal in Humboldt Canyon and Wildcat Silver's Hermosa proposal in Corral Canyon.

- PARA and SIA co-hosted NEPA instruction and scoping comment workshops.
 - Four additional public comment writing sessions were held for further assistance.
- Additional organizations submitting or co-signing our scoping comments include Defenders of Wildlife, Earthworks, Sky Island Alliance, Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, Friends of Sonoita Creek, Town of Patagonia and Tohono O'Odham Nation.

PARA continues efforts to bring attention to the potential threats posed by new mining in the Patagonia Mountains:

- PARA Board member and Coordinator traveled to 2013 National Wild & Scenic Film Festival for the presentation of PARA's movie, "Mining Patagonia."
 - As a 2013 official selection, "Mining Patagonia" is part of the permanent collection of the Wild & Scenic Film Library.
- PARA provided a tour of proposed mining areas to Defenders of Wildlife Vice President of Field Conservation Programs, Defenders Board Members and the staff from the Defenders Southwest Office.
- PARA gave Bob Brubaker, a member of Senator Jeff Flake's Tucson office staff a tour of proposed mining sites in the Patagonia Mountains.
- At his office's request, PARA provided scoping comments to Congressman Raúl Grijalva from area residents on the Wildcat Silver and Regal Resources mine exploration proposals.
- We provided a tour of proposed mining areas to John Davis of Wildlands Network during his cross-continent TrekWest journey.
- PARA co-signed comments regarding proposed critical habitat in the Patagonia Mountains for jaguar recovery with Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, Sky Island Alliance and Defenders of Wildlife.
- PARA collaborated with Pete Dronkers of EARTHWORKS, to create an EARTHWORKS webpage summarizing the threats posed by new mining in the Patagonia Mountains.
- We created and maintain a display in the Creative Spirit Artist Gallery with the latest information and PARA merchandise for visitors and locals.
- We staffed an information booth for the three annual Town of Patagonia events.
- We co-sponsored a free Vaudeville Event with local sword-swallower Geoffrey Cobb for Patagonia residents and visitors.

To increase our outreach, PARA maintains our online presence with our website and social media platforms.

- Our website www.PatagoniaAlliance.org increased page views by 60% for 2013.
- Each of the five foreign mining companies with claims in the Patagonia Mountains has a page with details and maps about their proposals as well as action updates.
- Our website posts state and national legislation with Take Action platforms to write to representatives.
 - Over 225 citizens sent letters to their federal representatives this year.

- We post blogs and guest articles regularly on our website.
- Our Patagonia News webpage provides headlines and links of local, national and international news articles relevant to the Patagonia area.
- We keep a Calendar of Events on our website with PARA functions as well as local events by area organizations.
- We maintain a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter with over 400 followers on each site.
- Our e-newsletter is now being sent to over 600 subscribers.

The Patagonia Area Resource Alliance into the future:

- PARA will continue monitoring the status of Wildcat Silver and Regal Resources exploration proposals and coordinate actions as appropriate. Furthermore, we are positioned to respond to new scoping notices for additional exploratory mining proposals scheduled for the Patagonia Mountains.
- With continued legal assistance from Defenders of Wildlife, PARA strives to hold mining companies, the Forest Service and all agencies accountable to follow the laws and regulations designed to protect our water, air, surrounding ecosystems and communities.
- PARA plans to expand community education activities to build our base of support and empower concerned citizens with potential actions to keep destructive mining out of the Patagonia Mountains.
- PARA recognizes the need to establish a sustainable funding base to maintain core functions and seeks to expand funding sources. Receiving our own 501(c)(3) status this year was the first step.
- We aim to strengthen relationships and partnerships with organizations and other allies that are doing work consistent with PARA's mission to protect and preserve the Patagonia Mountains.
- PARA recognizes that the health and economic prosperity of our communities are deeply connected to the well-being of the Patagonia Mountains and the Harshaw/ Sonoita Creek watershed. They are the source of our drinking water, clean air and the centerpiece for the tourism that drives our local economy.

See map of current area under claim by foreign mining companies and their proposed mining exploration sites in the Patagonia Mountains.

