



SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS ASSOCIATION

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New report details how Hudbay's Copper World project would damage Pima County economy

Read the Executive Summary and Full Report here: www.copperworlddeconomics.com

Economic Report: Copper World Mine would provide relatively little economic benefit to the regional economy while undermining vital economic sectors, depleting groundwater, and destroying a vibrant ecosystem

An economic analysis of the proposed Copper World Mine concludes the project will provide negligible economic benefits to the regional and state economy while undermining vital economic sectors, depleting regional groundwater supplies, and obliterating an ecologically vibrant mountain range.

“The Copper World project would contribute minimal economic gain to the greater Tucson economy while destroying the northern half of the Santa Rita Mountains and threatening human health and water supplies,” according to the executive summary of the report prepared by Missoula, MT-based Power Consulting Inc.

“The proposed mine has the potential to negatively affect important industries that depend on Pima County's natural environment and/or groundwater, notably tourism, outdoor recreation, the housing industry, and agriculture,” the executive summary states. “The harm to these industries could easily offset whatever economic benefits the mine would contribute in the form of jobs and tax payments.”

Toronto-based Hudbay Minerals Inc. is seeking state permits to construct the Copper World mine, which includes a series of open-pit copper mines and waste dumps that will straddle the northern half of the Santa Rita Mountains about 35 miles southeast of Tucson.

The Power report was commissioned by Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, a Tucson-based conservation group opposed to mining in the Santa Rita Mountains.

“The Power report documents that the marginal economic benefits from the Copper World mine are not worth destroying the Santa Rita Mountains, depleting our groundwater, generating millions of tons of toxic mining waste while exporting most if not all the raw copper overseas, providing little to no benefit to the U.S. renewable energy economy,” says Dr. Rob Peters, executive director of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas.

Additional key findings in the Power report include:

- House prices in Corona de Tucson, the community closest to the mine, could drop more than \$100 million due to the combined effects of air pollution and lost scenic vistas.
- Copper World is unlikely to be essential for U.S. copper needs because copper is not in short supply and is not considered a critical mineral by the United States Geological Survey, the agency responsible for classifying minerals as critical or not. It is mined and processed in many countries, including those that have free trade agreements with the U.S.
- Hudbay plans to pump 6,000 to likely 13,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year, roughly enough to supply 20,000 to 40,000 households. This water will be extracted from the same aquifer used by nearby communities including Sahuarita, Quail Creek, and Green Valley, substantially decreasing water available to farmers and residential housing, with concomitant impacts on the local economy.
- Hudbay claims it will pay \$12.35 million per year in property taxes, which would be slightly less than 1% of Pima County’s total intake of property taxes. Hudbay states it will pay \$8.4 million yearly in state taxes, representing 0.03% of Arizona’s 2022 tax revenues of \$27.8 billion.
- Hudbay projects that 430 miners will be directly employed at Copper World and that 3,000 secondary jobs will be created. However, studies on other mining communities, including those near the proposed Resolution Copper Mine in Superior, indicate that Hudbay’s 430 mining jobs would likely create significantly fewer than the 3,000 secondary jobs claimed.
- Even assuming Hudbay’s projection of 3,430 total jobs is correct, employment from the proposed mine will only add tenths of 1% to the local economy.
- The historical volatility and periodic lows in copper prices call into doubt Hudbay’s assertions that its activities will continuously employ 430 miners and create 3,000

secondary jobs.

- The extremely high biological diversity of the Santa Rita Mountains, including jaguar, ocelot, and a high concentration of bird species, attracts people to Pima County and helps support the outdoor recreation industry that annually generates \$1.4 billion and employs more than 14,000 people. If the mine were to cause even a small percentage decrease in outdoor recreation by destroying the Santa Ritas, this could translate into a substantial hit to the local economy.
- Environmental and cultural amenities attract people to Pima County, with more than 6,000 people moving here every year, many bringing with them retirement savings and other investments that power the local economy. If environmental degradation caused by the mine during its 20-year life persuades only 2.7% of these new residents not to come, this would offset all the 3,340 direct and secondary jobs Hudbay claims it would provide.

“This report provides the public and decision-makers essential information in countering Hudbay’s unsupported assertions that southern Arizona desperately needs a handful of mining jobs that will permanently degrade the environment and decrease future economic vitality,” Peters said. “Southern Arizona is far better off saying no to this disastrous project.”

Read the Executive Summary and Full Report here: www.copperworldeconomics.com

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