



Wesley Gilmer, P.E Mining Engineer
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Since 1961

**“WORK HARD,
PLAY HARD, SLEEP
HARD!”**

December 19, 2022

To whom it may concern at the BLM, Roche Ranches Inc. (A Utah Corporation) J6 Ranches LLC, (Utah LLC), and Dusty & Chrissi Roche (Sole Proprietors DBA Roche Land & Livestock) would like to fervently oppose the proposed action of the Husky 1 North Dry Ridge Mining disturbance. My families' livelihoods rest in the epicenter of the disturbance areas known on the map as the "H1NDR Lease" (Figure 3 on the proposed action disturbance areas). This area is also known as "Kendall Canyon" on the USFS records, and it takes care of 1000 ewes and fattens & finishes 1200 lambs on this in the summer months producing >\$160,000 / year and our family relies on every cent to sustain our operation. We have been amicable and cooperative to the mining operations in the past, and have put up with their thoroughfares. We are not going to be collaborative anymore! Our backs are against the wall, and we must fight for our ranch. The mines have literally moved valleys and mountains, and ours is the next on the chopping block. The original draft of the Husky North Dry Ridge was supposed to start on the southern end four years ago; since then ITAFOS & Cohorts have decided to start on the North end where my grazing permit, the Blackfoot River, and Blackfoot River Preserve start. The last two years the mine has blocked access to us on the East side to facilitate in moving our camps and maintaining operations and standard of living for our herders. Our ranch needs access so that we can take care of the animals and the land. They also have multiple auxiliaries on a weekly and sometimes daily basis digging test holes, surveying the land, and have already begun land moving projects

disturbing the creeks and springs. On top of that, the selenium and phosphorous that has been emitted into the creek beds have killed many sheep the past ten years, and most voraciously this year. This is enough. I'm saving all the mortality reports, pictures, and other ancillary evidence against ITAFOS for coming days ahead. We're not idiots, and ITAFOS and company must think we are to neglect us in not being pro-active in their approach and with their public relations efforts. The "NDR Operational Zone" and the "NDR Ultimate Pit Boundary and Pit Backfill" is located right where we bed the sheep 80% of the time during the summer grazing rotation. There are streams that have been moved, and I have pictures of bulldozers on top of creek beds & beaver habitation. Call my bluff, sure go ahead. I can produce visual evidence with GPS coordinates when needed. This comment period is only smoking mirrors and red tape to go through. The big fight will be ahead. I adamantly disapprove of this project for not only my livelihood in jeopardy, but the land I protect as well. The mines will destroy my permit, and have already destroyed Dry valley, Long Valley, Rasmussen Ridge, Lanes Creek, Wooley Valley, Timber Creek, Maybe Canyon, Smoky Mine etc. all within a 20 mile air radius. We need these products to live, and I use the necessary everyday common products these mines help produce, but in the same token they are destroying my life as well. Our lambs have been lighter in weight the past two years, and the ewes have been unsettled; and as aforementioned above the death loss. We also have had employees leave because of the working conditions of having to travel >4 miles back and forth to their camps each night and being overworked trying to do the best job they have. Our fall lamb weights and percentage no.'s is what we base our performance & bonus structure on all our workers. The mines say they will haul water, and help us? How? Are they going to use a helicopter? Do the mines think they are helping us by hauling water to a central location, creating dust, pneumonia, and other animal respiratory health diseases? Sheep are not like cattle, they meander, browse, and bed in all different locations, and always bed on top of the mountain as stated previously. There is no way to mitigate this issue or cooperate anymore. It has superseded any type of standard we can comply with. These preliminary proposed legislations the mine has issued cannot be sustained in our family's operation to be able to conduct business. The feed will not hold up, roads cannot be traveled, and the ongoing death from selenium poisonings and water disturbance conditions is too far great. Again we 100% object to this project! Do what is right, pay us for monetary damages, and find us a new permit. We want the mining business to flourish, but don't take out the little guy to do so that feeds and clothes the world!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR' or 'Dusty Roche' in a stylized, cursive script.

Dusty Roche "Director of Roche Ranches Inc."

Dusty Roche Director Roche Ranches Inc.

Notary Public: _____