

From: [FS-Coconino Webmail](#)
To: [Dechter, Mike - FS, AZ](#)
Subject: FW: [External Email]Power Line Undergrounding- S of Sedona AZ
Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 9:16:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



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From: clint gans [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 11:28 AM
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Cc: clint gans [REDACTED]
Subject: [External Email]Power Line Undergrounding- S of Sedona AZ

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Hello!

I am a resident of the Village of Oak Creek on the southern border of Sedona, Arizona.

Today we have winds that are constant at 20-40 mph, with gusts of 50 mph.

I am writing today to respectfully request that the Forest Service reverse its decision to allow the Arizona Power Service (APS) to build above-ground 69 kV high voltage transmission lines along Highway 179 near the Red Rock Ranger Station. It's my understanding that the NFS has already directed APS to underground the 5-mile section of the line along nearby Beaverhead Flat Road.

Please reconsider the allowance to build the 2.5-mile section along Highway 179 above ground, and direct APS to underground that section too.

I have the following reasons supporting this change:

- 1) The riparian corridor along Highway 179 south of Sedona (Dry Beaver Creek) is more heavily vegetated than the bulk of the surrounding area. But above-ground water is present only for about one month of the year. As such, this riparian corridor contains

mature cottonwood and sycamore trees, as well as abundant smaller trees and shrubs that take advantage of the underground water. These plants and trees will become fuel for any fires that burn nearby, and would take tens of years to regrow. The proposed above-ground lines would exacerbate fire risk.

2) The Village of Oak Creek (VOC) at the south end of the Sedona area is permanent home to mostly senior citizens. There is also a large contingent of tourists most months of the year. The unnecessary increase to wind-blown fire risk just south of VOC caused by above-ground transmission lines would threaten the older population as well as potentially ruining the topography at the town entrance on Highway 179 for many years to come.

3) APS is entirely capable of undergrounding the relatively short section of the new 69kV line between the junction of Beaverhead Flat Road and Highway 179, and the southern border of VOC. The equipment they will use to underground the 5-mile run along Beaverhead Flat Rd. is the same equipment that could be used to prepare the trench necessary to underground the additional section up to VOC.

In summary, please reverse NFS support for new above-ground transmission lines in the 2.5-mile section along AZ Highway 179 between the south border of Sedona and the junction with Beaverhead Flat Road. Please instead add your support to undergrounding these lines in that section to eliminate the danger of wind-blown fire along the sensitive riparian corridor and the nearby homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Clint Gans

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]