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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

We are regular guests at Circle Z Ranch, near Patagonia. We visit the ranch annually and spend money on food, beverages, gifts and clothing at businesses in Patagonia throughout our stay.

We oppose the Permanent Access Route and High Power transmission line that is being proposed in the mine's plan of operation. This route, if permitted, would have a serious and detrimental effect on Circle Z's horseback riding opportunities on Forest Service ground. The routes would interfere with at least 10 different ranch trails, which have been used for decades and which are permitted under the ranch's special use permit. The ranch would no longer be able to take guests onto this strip of land which would significantly affect the ability to offer the kind of rides that cause us to travel to Patagonia for our vacations.

The proposed route would also impact the ranch's conservation areas as more than half of the trails would be in the visual and sound fields of this route. This would forever destroy the pristine and expansive vistas that are the reason we travel to this area. We request that USFS conduct an impact analysis of this route on the local tourism economy, which we expect will be significant.

There are viable alternatives. Using the already established FS Road 49 to Lochiel would not cause the significant impacts that the proposed route will involve. The visual impacts of the High Voltage transmission line could be mitigated by requiring the line to be buried, or bringing power to the site from the east.

We trust that further analysis and consideration of alternatives will prevent this irreversible harm to a unique and precious landscape, and the local tourism economy that it supports.

Sincerely, Timothy Leyh, Esq.