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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a recent guest of Circle Z Guest Ranch, located just south of Patagonia, Arizona, it is of great concern to me that the Permanent Access Route and the High Power transmission line proposed for the Mine's plan of operation could have a huge impact to the Circle Z Ranch's horseback riding opportunities onto CNFS lands. The planned routes would transect ten of the ranches established trails that have been in use for years, trails that are permitted under Circle Z's Special Use Permit. The ranch would no longer be able take their guests out onto this small strip of land, which would significantly and directly affect their ability to continue to offer outstanding horseback riding onto adjacent forest service lands. This route would also indirectly affect the Ranch's adjacent conservation lands, as more than half of the ranch riding trails would be in the visual and sound fields of this route. This would cause significant visual pollution, and greatly disturb enjoyment of the pristine and expansive vistas that are currently experienced by ranch guests. Presently, I am looking forward to returning to Circle Z, however I would be much less likely to want to come back knowing that mining operations, roads, and power lines will be constructed in the near vicinity of the ranch. That is not the kind of environment I want to experience when I'm on vacation.

I ask that the Forest Service conduct an analysis of the impacts of the Permanent Access Route and High Power transmission line on the tourist business the ranch brings to this area, the elimination of their riding trails, and on the potential for visual pollution and disturbances on the UNFS land and the Ranch conservation lands.

There are viable alternatives to the proposed routes that the USFS can mandate consideration. Using the already established FS road 49 to Lochiel would not have the significant impacts that the proposed route would have. Also, an alternative to the visual pollution caused by the high voltage transmission line is the burying of that line, or the requirement to bring the power in from the east as opposed to from the south.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns,

Jane Andrew