

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/23/2024 3:30:56 PM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Snouffer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

Our family were guests at Circle Z Guest Ranch, located just south of Patagonia, Arizona, near the end of 2022. This vacation was on our "bucket list" and ended up being one of the most memorable family vacations that we've ever shared together. The people, wildlife, and the natural environment were absolutely wonderful and remain etched in our memories. We look forward to a time when we are able to return to enjoy a new experience at Circle Z.

Of great concern to us is the Permanent Access Route and the High Power transmission line that is proposed in the Mine's plan of operation.

It is our understanding that this route, if allowed, could foreseeably have a huge impact to the Circle Z Ranches horseback riding opportunities onto CNFS lands. The routes would transect 10 of the ranches established trails that have been in use for years,, many of which we traveled on during our stay, and are trails that are permitted under their 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 Ranches 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 foreseeably cause significant visual pollution, a disturbance in the enjoyment of future guests of the pristine and expansive vistas that are becoming so rare, not only in the United States but throughout the world.

We ask that the Forest Service conduct a thorough 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.

It is our understanding that there are viable alternatives to the proposed routes that the USFS can mandate be considered. 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 our concerns.

Andrew Snouffer