

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/25/2024 5:16:54 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been a regular guest at Circle Z Guest Ranch, located just south of Patagonia Arizona, since 2010. I have not only ridden on the trails but was lucky enough to ride in 3 excellent horseback riding/training clinics held there.

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

This route, if allowed, could foreseeably have a huge impact on the Circle Z Ranch's horseback riding opportunities onto CNFS lands. The routes would transect 10 of the ranch's established trails that have been in use for years, trails that are permitted under their Special Use Permit. One of these trails, the Stagecoach trail, is my favorite.

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. I am also concerned that this will affect the migration paths of the many birds we have had the opportunity to see on the nature walks. I know that a lot of people visit this area to see the migrating birds.

My understanding is 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.

Please protect the Circle Z Ranch, that has been such a wonderful place for so many people to horseback ride, to bird watch and to rest.

Thank you in advance for considering my request,
Suzette Blanchard