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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My wife and I are long time guests at Circle Z Guest Ranch, located just south of Patagonia, Arizona. We have visited the Circle Z once or twice a year for about 20 years and have often brought our children and grandchildren along. The Circle Z is a special place to us because we love the experience of the unspoiled terrain surrounding the ranch, including portions of the Coronado National Forest.

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

The Permanent Access Route, if allowed, could foreseeably have a significant impact to the Circle Z Ranch's horseback riding opportunities onto Coronado National Forest lands. The routes would transect 10 of the Circle Z's established trails that have been in use for years, trails that are permitted under their Special Use Permit. The Circle Z 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.

The Permanent Access Route would also indirectly affect the Circle Z's adjacent conservation lands, as more than half of the ranch riding trails would be in the visual and sound fields of the Mine's Permanent Access Route and the industrial size High Power transmission line. This would foreseeably cause significant visual pollution which would impair our enjoyment of the pristine and expansive vistas that bring us back to the ranch year after year.

We 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 through the elimination of their riding trails, and the visual pollution and disturbances on the UNFS land and the Ranch Conservation Lands. Since many of the long term visitors to the ranch might not visit again because of these impacts, this analysis should also include the economic impact of the potential decrease in visitors on the Circle Z Ranch, the Town of Patagonia, and Santa Cruz County.

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