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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for considering our comments on this VERY important issue.

We are residents of Tucson and are guests at Circle Z Ranch, located just South of Patagonia, Arizona. Circle Z is one of the few remaining Ranches in the United States where guests may experience an authentic Ranch life. As a former President of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Board and a granddaughter of a former Rancher in Sonoita, I am acutely aware of the value of open spaces to the mental health of the human being and its role to be part of the natural world.

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.

The proposed route, if allowed, could have a huge impact to the horseback riding opportunities of Circle Z Ranch and others on the CNFS lands. The routes, as currently proposed, would transect 10 established trails and as such could impede the access to adjacent forest service land which is currently permitted under a Special Use Permit. This is pristine country where we can ride and for a brief period of time, be away from the noise, the hustle, bustle that comes with all commercial activities, and see ourselves as part of the natural world with the birds and the wildlife. It gives us a chance to renew ourselves and to feel what humans felt when they were discovering our beautiful West.

The proposed route would also indirectly affect adjacent conservation lands and as such over half of the trails would have visual, air (caused by dust created from the trucks) and noise pollution.

We ask the Forest Service to please conduct an analysis of the impacts of the proposed Permanent Access Route AND High Power Transmission line on the visual, noise and air pollution it will bring to this pristine area as well as the negative impact to the tourist business which the Circle Z Ranch brings to the area. It will eliminate riding trails and cause visual and noise pollution to UNFS Land and to Conservation lands.

We understand the need for transportation and transmission routes. There ARE viable alternatives to the proposed routes that USFS can mandate be considered. Using the already established FS road 49 to Lochiel would not have the significant visual and noise impacts that the currently proposed route does. The High Voltage transmission line can be brought in from the east as opposed from the South.

As Wallace Stegner, professor of English at Stanford University so eloquently said, "Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed....We simply need that wild country available to us..for it is a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, as part of the geography of hope.."

Thank you for considering our concerns,

Laura and Jon Eberly