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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I lived in Patagonia in 2000, & have visited occasionally over the years. It is one of the few remaining mid-elevation grasslands in Arizona. With increasing sprawl, pressure from extractive energy, solar energy & other development pressures, Arizona is facing a real treat of losing habitat, open space, & identity.

I am concerned with 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 to the viweshed, countryside, ranching operations, wildlife habitat, & water quality. As a former guest of Circle Z Ranch, I saw amazing landscapes on USFS land via horseback. The routes would transect 10 of the ranches established trails that have been in use for years, 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 our enjoyment of the pristine and expansive vistas that are so rare in the world today.

Please 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 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.