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Comments: My husband and I have been guests at Circle Z Guest Ranch, located just south of Patagonia, Arizona, for five years with our reservations for 2025 on the books. We return to the ranch each year with a growing number of friends, increasing our economic impact on the ranch, the local community of Patagonia and the state of Arizona.

Of great concern to us are the permanent access route and the high power transmission line outlined in the Hermosa Critical Minerals Project #65668 (a zinc and manganese mine in the Patagonia Mountain range). The high power transmission line is proposed to be built on U.S. Forest Service land, a beautiful strip of pristine land that lies between conservation property owned by Circle Z Ranch and the Patagonia Mountains. If allowed, the unsightly transmission line would dissect ten trails that visitors to Circle Z Ranch have ridden for 98 years, including Tom's Trail, Yucca Canyon, Raul's Trail, Maggie's Ridge, Stagecoach and Quartz trails.

This route, if allowed, would foreseeably have a huge impact to the Circle Z Ranch's horseback riding opportunities on U.S. Forest Service lands. The ranch would no longer be able take their guests out onto this small strip of U.S. Forest Service land, which would significantly and directly affect the Circle Z Ranch's ability to continue to offer outstanding horseback riding onto adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands.

This high power transmission line route would also indirectly affect Circle Z Ranch's adjacent conservation lands, as more than half of the Ranch's riding trails would be in the visual and sound fields of this route. This would foreseeably cause significant visual pollution, a disturbance of the pristine and expansive vistas that are so rare in the world today. The majesty of these trails is one of the primary reasons we return to Circle Z 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 Circle Z Ranch brings to this area, the elimination of their riding trails, and on the potential for visual pollution and disturbances on both U.S. Forest Service land and Circle Z Ranch conservation lands.

We understand there are viable alternatives to the proposed routes that the U.S. Forest Service can mandate be considered. Using the already established FS Road 49 to Lochiel would not have the significant impacts that the proposed permanent access route would have. Also, alternatives to the unsightly visual pollution caused by the high voltage transmission line is burying that line or bringing the power in from the east as opposed to from the south.