

High Haven Ranch
P. O. Box 246
Sonoita, AZ 85637-0246
March 26, 2008

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Attn: Team Leader
Rosemont Copper Project EIS
Coronado National Forest
300 Congress Street
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the initial public comment period for preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Rosemont Copper Project. We are ranch owners at High Haven Ranch, with Forest Service grazing permits of Oak Tree Allotments I & II, directly adjacent to Forest Service lands now leased by Rosemont Copper Company. We have tremendous concern over the multitude of impacts to our area that would occur if the proposed Rosemont Copper Project is accepted by the Forest Service.

During all the over 40 years that the Barchas family has had ownership of High Haven Ranch, we have treasured the scenic open space and aesthetic natural beauty of the land. We have valued that Highway 83 is designated as a Scenic Highway. One of the spectacular viewsheds on all of that highway is at mileage marker 44 on the west side high point overlooking the magnificent and pristine panorama of Rosemont Valley - the very area that would be ravaged by the impacts of the proposed mine.

We have always had a positive, mutually respecting, cooperative relationship with the Forest Service. That, of course, will continue to be so. But we do need to express that it disturbs us greatly that the battle our community so strongly fought against ASARCO is now having to be fought again, this time with Augusta Resource (Rosemont Copper Co.). The following are our concerns:

1. The pristine area would be irreparably and permanently scarred and ravaged. There is no way there could be adequate restoration of the the devastation of the environment of the open pit copper mine and tailings sites. Grandiose promises made in such instances tend to eventuate in only empty words, with bankruptcy being the easy way to get out of responsibility, dumping ultimate burden on the taxpayers.
2. The wildlife corridors would be adversely affected with danger to threatened species. There is important biodiversity in that area that must be protected.
3. There are major questions and problems regarding impacts on water, wells, watershed, groundwater in volume, purity, contamination and depletion.
4. The winding, narrow highway 83 would be clogged, with much higher traffic density and volume, heavy trucks carrying potentially toxic loads, more likelihood of accidents and spills.
5. Air and noise pollution would be much affected by dust and explosives. Considerations for health and factors affecting astronomy would be impacted .
6. Long range effects in quality of life, the facade of boom and bust economy,, the added burdens economically to the local community, the depletion of property values, would all be important considerations.

It would be very important to have additional governmental bodies and agencies involved in the NEPA process. It truly is essential that Pima County Supervisors and Pima County governmental agencies should be involved, as well as Arizona Fish and Wildlife, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, and Historic Preservation should at the very least be among those from whom input is sought to be part of the NEPA process. Adequate time should be given for fuller participation and response by the community.

The principle of Multiple Use should not be allowed to become Multiple Abuse. The ultimate mission of the Forest Service should be stewardship of the land, not to enable despoilment. The Forest Service should not change its plan to accommodate mining interests.

The proposed Rosemont Open Pit Copper Mine would create many layers and dimensions of despoilment, causing ravaging of pristine land, and with negative impacts for generations to come.

Thank you for giving these concerns your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Barchas and Cecile M. Barchas

Sarah Barchas and Cecile Barchas

We concur with the above concerns:

Rebecca E. Barchas 3/26/08
[2456]

July Cohen
[2457]

- I am adamantly opposed to this project and the exploitation and despoilment which would result!

Jack Barchas, MD
[2458]

- It is critical that Pima County government agencies and State agencies such as Fish and Wildlife and Dept of Environmental Quality be involved in the analysis of decisions regarding environmental impact.

THE FOREST SERVICE MUST STOP ALL ACTIVITY BY ROSEMONT & ADGUSFA UNTIL REAL AND MEANINGFUL ANALYSIS CAN BE COMPLETED. THE NEPA PROCESS MUST BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO COMPLETION. DECISIONS MUST BE BASED ON FACTS.
(Comments on Attached Sheet.)

M.A. Ziba
and *Rachel Barchas Lieberman*
[2459]

Randy Bantor
[2460]