
The SCENIC NEWS

Spring/Summer 2009

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas

www.scenicsantaritas.org

Welcome!

Please enjoy our newsletter.

Suggestions and submissions are welcome.

Please send ideas to info@scenicsantaritas.org.



*Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, with the help of a great number of volunteers and concerned citizens, continues to work toward stopping the mine proposal in the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains. But there is a lot still to be done. The following list represents **WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR:***

THE SCOPING PROCESS:

- The Official Forest Service Scoping Period on the Rosemont Mine is over, but **the NEPA process has not ended.** Visit www.scenicsantaritas.org/scoping for Information on HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEPA PROCESS!
- In addition, the estimated timeline to develop the environmental impact statement has been extended. The Draft EIS, previously scheduled for March 2009, is now scheduled for November 2009. The Final EIS previously scheduled for October 2009 is now scheduled for July 2010.
- All of the comments collected from scoping meetings, including six open houses and three hearings, have been posted online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/Rosemont>.
- To help the public prepare for these upcoming events, SSSR held **DEIS** (draft environmental impact statement) Workshops in Green Valley, Vail, Patagonia and Tucson. Watch our website for more **WORKSHOPS** to come in the fall — www.scenicsantaritas.org.
- Scoping is **only the first comment period** in the **NEPA** process for the Rosemont Mine proposal. To get on the mailing list or to send in comments: Team Leader, Rosemont Copper Project, Coronado National Forest, 300 W. Congress St., Tucson, Arizona 85701, or FAX comments to (520) 388-8305, ATTN: Rosemont Team Leader, or email to comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us Check their website for more information on the Rosemont proposal: www.fs.fed.us/r3/Coronado/Rosemont

LEGISLATIVE:

- We are working to reach and inform Jon Kyl and John McCain and other state legislators... See www.scenicsantaritas.org/resolutions or www.scenicsantaritas.org/endorsements for information on who is opposed to this mine proposal.
- 1872 Mining Law Reform support – House Bill—HR 699— is in committee and is expected to carry the same language as last year's bill, which passed handily. Additionally, a Senate version— S796—was introduced in April and is in committee. Visit www.govtrack.us/congress/bill (Enter Bill number) for updates. Please let your elected officials know it is time to reform this antiquated law.

OUTREACH: **WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS!** See our list of events in this newsletter.

- Publicity workshops were held in Green Valley and Vail in early March. A quick response team of about a dozen volunteers for letter writing was formed. Email us at info@scenicsantaritas.org if you want to participate.

ENDORSE our Efforts: Have your group or business endorse SSSR to show your support! □ Email info@scenicsantaritas.org to have an endorsement form sent to you or to have SSSR make a presentation to your group, club or Home Owners Association!

FUNDRAISING: *Donations help us to continue our education and outreach efforts.*

- Donations are always welcome. See our website to donate through PayPal or contact us. This donation is tax-deductible!
- Fall Fundraisers to be held in Tucson and/or Green Valley...details will follow in the Fall SSSR Scenic News.

RELATED ACTIONS:

- *TEP/ROSEMONT ELECTRICAL LINE* — We believe that this project should be included in the NEPA process for the mine as a “Connected Action”, since the transmission line would be for the mine. TEP should be consulting with the National Forest Service about this. Consequently, we believe this TEP planning process is both financially wasteful and premature.
- *COMMUNITY WATER CO./CAP DRAFT EA* — We believe that this draft EA is premature. The mine proposal is still going through the NEPA process. It will likely be years before the National Forest Service makes a decision regarding this mine proposal. The fact that Community Water Company "will give Rosemont Mine priority for use of their CAP water" ties these actions together. This pipeline project should be included in the larger draft environmental impact statement for the Rosemont Mine, with the Bureau acting as a cooperating agency. Giving the Rosemont mine priority use of this water is not in the best interest of the public. We question whether Augusta will be able to pay the costs associated with the pipeline project, and are concerned that the costs will be left to the local taxpayers.

Please keep up the fight! Remember this mine is not approved!



Ray Mine, Kearney, AZ

Copper prices keep going up and down, continuing its traditional boom/bust cycle.

Remember - these are not sustainable jobs, and the damage will be permanent.

Arizona weaned itself away from a large economic dependence on hard rock mining years ago, for good reason. Mines create air and water pollution, the economic boom is followed by economic bust and dislocation of workers and their families, the pit and waste piles disfigure what previously was a natural landscape. The Highway 83 corridor—Tucson’s recreational backyard— will be transformed from scenic byway to mining complex. This will not be lost on high tech companies and skilled workforces seeking to locate in an attractive setting with clean air and water, and strong recreational and conservation values. Tucson cannot pitch a high standard of living to prospective companies if its surroundings are progressively transformed from natural mountain landscapes to open pit mines. They will choose to go elsewhere.

THANK YOU

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to our volunteers! This includes everyone who gives even one minute to help keep the Santa Rita Mountains scenic through tabling, cleaning up Highway 83, phone calls, letters to the editor and elected officials and by spreading the word to their neighbors, co-workers, group members, family and friends that Southern Arizona doesn't want or need another open pit mine!

Watch our website, www.scenicsantaritas.org for the most current information on events we are organizing and/or participating in, as well as other activities, news and alerts!



Feb. 1, 2009— Clean up crew for Scenic Highway 83



**NEPA workshops, Left—Feb. 24, Vail and Right—April 21, Patagonia
Two of several held by SSSR throughout Southern Arizona this spring.**



**April 2009 —SSSR volunteers participated in Earth Day events throughout April
Left—Kids learned about mining impacts at Reid Park, Right—UA students sign petitions.**

SSSR's Mission — To protect the scenic, aesthetic, recreational, environmental and wildlife values of the Santa Rita Mountains, Patagonia Mountains, Canelo Hills and San Rafael Valley through education and outreach, including protection of these areas from degradation due to mining activities.

**VISIT THE SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS TABLE OR
VOLUNTEER AT THESE UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

JULY

4th of July —Patagonia Parade and Festival, All day event

Fall 2009

TBD through Nov. —Fundraiser
—Special Topics – NEPA Workshops

SEPTEMBER

18-20 —Santa Cruz County Fair

OCTOBER

9-11 —Patagonia Fall Festival

NOVEMBER

Sat. 7 —Living La Vida Verde, Downtown Tucson
Vet's Day -TBD —Vets Day Event, American Legion Post#109, Corona de Tucson

DECEMBER

11-13 —4th Avenue Street Fair

If you want to volunteer to help at these events, or if your group or organization is having an event and wants our group to participate, please email info@scenicsantaritas.org. We would love to spread the word about keeping our water and air clean!



**Baby javelinas in the Santa Ritas
by John Eisenman**



**Spring on Scenic Highway 83
by Kim Beck**

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