

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas – News and Alerts, October 3, 2009

Greetings friends of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas! In this issue of SSSR news and alerts I have included the following:

1. SAVE THE DATE! Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Fundraiser, November 12th!
2. SSSR upcoming events - volunteers needed
3. Proposed Rosemont mine update – grading project in the Santa Ritas
4. Help spread the word: It's NOT a done deal!

I have copied this issue both below in this message and attached as a pdf in case the formatting doesn't come through correctly.

Please contact me if you have any questions, and thank you for your continued interest and support.

Lisa

Lisa Froelich, Coordinator
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
520-445-6615
lisa@scenicsantaritas.org

1. SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Fundraiser for Save the Scenic Santa Ritas!

Thursday, November 12th, 5-8 pm
Old Town Artisans, 201 N Court Ave in Tucson
Raffle/silent auction and live music!
Details to follow soon...

If you can help us out with this even by donating an item for our raffle/silent auction, or can volunteer some time with setup and organization, please contact Lisa at 445-6615 or email lisa@scenicsantaritas.org. Thank you!

If you know you can't make it to the event, please consider sending your tax-deductable contribution to:

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
8987 E. Tanque Verde #309-157
Tucson, AZ 85749

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

Below I have listed events through the end of the year where SSSR will be present with a table and information. If you can help out at any of these events, **we are always in need of volunteers!** If you

haven't done so yet and know you can help, please contact lisa@scenicsantaritas.org with your availability. Otherwise make sure to stop by our booth and say hi!

October 9-11 (Friday-Sunday)

Patagonia Fall Festival

October 22-24 (Thursday-Saturday)

Green Valley Annual County Fair Days at the Green Valley Mall

October 24 (Saturday)

Empire Ranch Roundup and Open House

November 12 (Thursday)

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Fall Fundraiser

December 11-13 (Friday-Sunday)

4th Avenue Street Fair

3. Press Release, September 10, 2009

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas objects to the recent grading project initiated near Scenic State Highway 83 by Augusta Resource Corporation, a Canadian company locally known as Rosemont Copper. A huge scar, clearly visible from the highway, has suddenly appeared on the eastern slopes of the Santa Rita Mountains. SSSR points out that this is the first visible destruction of natural habitat due to the proposed Rosemont Mine. While this highly visible project covers only about eight acres on Augusta's private land, this project gives the first indication of what 3000 acres of public land in the Coronado National Forest will look like if the proposed Rosemont Mine is approved by the National Forest Service. If approved, the mine will be in operation for approximately twenty years and most of the northeast corner of the Santa Ritas will be defaced.

Augusta has indicated that the grading is part of an experimental revegetation project. However, since no permits for the mine have been issued and there is an ongoing study by the Forest Service of environmental impacts which may preclude mining activity in this area, SSSR firmly believes that Augusta's action is ill conceived, premature and another indication that Augusta will never be a good neighbor in Southeast Arizona.

This proposed mine is opposed by every local government in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and both of our local Congressional representatives. The impact of the mine on water quality and quantity, air pollution, natural habitat destruction, traffic problems on Scenic Highway 83, loss of a recreational area and negative impact on tourism and property values are all problems that need to be addressed.

We believe that Augusta should suspend this operation and let the Forest Service process come to its conclusion before altering these beautiful local mountains.

Contact information:

Morris Farr, Vice President, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas

520-604-0836

4. Rosemont proposed mine: it's STILL NOT a done deal!

Rosemont Copper has begun to ramp up their public relations efforts and recently sent out a large mailing to many area citizens touting their supposed commitment to the environment and economic benefits the mine would bring. The reality is this mining proposal is a REALLY bad deal for southern Arizona and for American taxpayers as a whole. It would allow Canadian investors to mine American copper with out paying ANY royalties (as is required of natural gas, etc.), send the copper to Asia, and leave us with a giant hole in the ground, and huge tailings piles covering 3,000-4,000 acres of PUBLIC national forest land. And, by the way, it would also very likely leave us with a depleted water table, toxics in our ground water, and destruction of wildlife habitat in the entire northern Santa Ritas, just to mention a few of the impacts. Thus, are the jobs that would be created worth it? We don't think so!

Please help us to spread this message by contacting our leaders in government and writing letters to the editor. Below I have listed contact information for various government officials and newspapers.

Elected Officials

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)

<http://mccain.senate.gov/public/>

407 West Congress Street, Suite 103

Tucson, AZ 85701

(520) 670-6334 Fax: (520) 670-6637

Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ)

<http://kyl.senate.gov/>

6840 North Oracle Road, Suite 150

Tucson, Arizona 85704

(520) 575-8633, Fax: (520) 797-3232

To find your Representative:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-07)

<http://grijalva.house.gov>

810 E. 22nd St. Suite 102

Tucson, AZ 85713

(520) 622-6788, fax (520) 622-0198

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-08)

<http://giffords.house.gov/>

1661 N. Swan, Suite 112

Tucson, AZ 85712

(520) 881-3588, Fax: (520) 322-9490

Committee on Natural Resources

U.S. House of Representatives

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/>

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-6065 Fax: (202) 225-1931

**Energy and Natural Resources Committee Office
U.S. Senate**

<http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

304 Dirksen Senate Building

Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-4971 Fax: (202) 224-6163

Pima County Board of Supervisor

<http://www.pima.gov/bos/bos1.html>

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

<http://www.co.santa-cruz.az.us/board/index.html>

Newspapers

Arizona Daily Star

letters@azstarnet.com

Tucson Weekly

mailbag@tucsonweekly.com

Green Valley News

<http://gvnews.com/letters/>

Nogales International

Manuel Coppola, Managing Editor

manuel.coppola@nogalesinternational.com

Sonoita/ The Bulletin

rek1044@theriver.com

Benson News and Sun

newssun@benssonnews-sun.com

Sierra Vista Herald

Publisher- Philip Vega

philip.vega@svherald.com

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