

Rosemont Copper Mine

Objection Review

Objection # (s): 0084-SSSR

Resource Area(s): Livestock Grazing and Range – Effects (GR-5)

Objection Issue:

- 0084-36: The FEIS fails to fully consider impacts to nearby ranching operations and associated risks to public health resulting from the proposed mining operations.

Remedy Supplied by Objector (if any):

0084-36: The USFS must prepare an analysis of the impacts to livestock grazing beyond the specific footprint of the project, and include the potential risks to neighboring ranches as well risks to public health risk from consuming meat produced on lands surrounding this mine site.

Law, Regulation and/or Policy: Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508

Review Team Member Response:

The analysis area for impacts to livestock grazing activities included the area covered by six potentially affected grazing allotments (Rosemont, Greaterville, Thurber, DeBaud, Helvetica and Stone Springs), an area far greater than the “specific footprint of the project” [PR 047511_4, pp. 738-740]. Analysis and disclosure of effects to surrounding livestock operations is provided in Chapter 3 of the FEIS (pp. 732-751), including impacts to grazing capacity and potential impacts to water availability. Capability assessments of lands between the perimeter and the security fences will be conducted on an allotment-specific basis once the affected areas are fully known and the perimeter and security fences are constructed [PR 047511_4, pp. 734, 735-736, and 741]. Allotment management plans may be modified under subsequent analyses once actual conditions under pre-mining and mining phases are known. The FEIS analyzed the effects to existing grazing operations under a worst case scenario, assuming no grazing would occur between the perimeter and security fences.

Impacts to livestock and associated risks to public health resulting from mining operations are addressed as follows:

Impacts to individual wells, stock tanks, seeps and springs are disclosed in the FEIS Groundwater Quantity section [PR 047511_3, pp. 288-362], and the Seeps, Springs and Riparian Area section [PR 047511_3, pp. 485-570]. Federal air quality standards have been established and adopted by the EPA to protect public health as well as damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings [PR 047511_3, 4, pp. 218, 238, 654-655, 990, and 1008-1009]. Statements on

pages 990 and 1008-1009 of the FEIS have been corrected in the Errata to indicate that, of the action alternatives, only the Barrel Alternative will comply with NAAQs at the perimeter fence. Health risks to livestock outside the perimeter fence are addressed by meeting federal air quality standards at the perimeter fence for the selected action (Barrel Alternative) [PR 047511_3, p. 263, 287; PR 047504, draft ROD, p. 12].

These issues were also addressed in the Responses to Comments on the DEIS [PR 047511_7, Appendix G, pp. G-24, G-29, and G-45]; and in the Public Concern Statements [PR 047511_7, CD] documents 248, 308, 310, 576, 613, 635, 739, 742, and 786.

Recommended Remedy by Review Team Member (if any): The remedy suggested by the objector is not warranted. No remedy is required.

Review Team Member: Gary K. Ziehe, Range Management, R3