

## PROPOSAL TO MITIGATE IMPACTS TO OHV USE IN ROSEMONT

The Rosemont OHV recreational area represents one of the primary and most popular riding areas in the Santa Rita Back Country Touring area. Through the management and enforcement efforts by the OHV recreation program this is the area where this activity has been encouraged to function. The terrain lends itself to discourage illegal off road activity due to natural barriers and rocky soils. The wash area through which Forest Road 231 runs, provides many available dispersed campsites where forest users are able to camp and ride. This area serves to take much of the pressure off of our more vulnerable areas such as Gardner Canyon, Louisiana & Ophir Gulch, and the Greaterville area.

In the event the mining operations planned in Rosemont & Barrel Canyons becomes a reality, this activity will severely impact the OHV use and serve to displace these users into our more vulnerable and diverse use areas.

There are close to 5 sections of National Forest Land on the East side of State Highway 83 directly across from Rosemont Canyon. This area is virtually unused by the public, and is a continuation of the same terrain typical of the Rosemont country.

This portion of the Coronado National Forest lends itself perfectly to the development of an exclusive OHV Recreation Area, which would provide these forest users with what OHV enthusiasts desire, and that is an exclusive OHV trail system. A trail system engineered to provide a safer and more challenging experience.

We have the opportunity of approaching the Rosemont Mining Company and asking them to relocate the Rosemont OHV recreation area to the East side of State Highway 83, providing the engineering, funding, and construction of the trail system as part of mitigating the loss of this valuable recreational area.

I would envision a master plan that would incrementally expand the area into an OHV Park that would ultimately result in a concession with an RV park, camping area, restrooms, shower facilities, and food. The entire park would have a perimeter fence so as to prevent illegal off road travel and allow for appropriate management and enforcement of park rules.

I firmly believe that a project like this would generate enough interest among OHV enthusiasts, area dealers, and ATV/motorcycle manufacturers that support would come forward to help in the development of this area. I have had conversations with factory reps from the industry and they are very supportive of safe and intelligent use of their products. They are very concerned about protecting the environment from off road resource damage. They spend significant sums of money on training and information for users of their products.

Having an exclusive OHV area would give the Forest the opportunity to restrict OHV use to only street legal OHV's, from all areas of the Santa Ritas outside of the designated OHV Park, except for Temporal Canyon, (Forest Road 72), the Salero Ranch/Bull

Springs Road, (Forest Road 143), and Big Casa Blanca/Wood Canyon Access Road, (Forest Roads 152 & 4105). This would greatly reduce the constant threat of illegal off road activity that is an ongoing problem throughout the current Santa Rita Backcountry Touring Area (SRBTA). It would provide a manageable area for the OHV users that would be displaced by the loss of the Rosemont portion of the SRBTA. In addition it would provide the experience that a majority of the OHV enthusiasts have expressed as a preference to the existing area. Having trails to operate their vehicles on without the threat of encountering full size vehicles, horses, bicycles, and hikers, is what these people would prefer.

This is a great opportunity for the Coronado National Forest to take a bold forward looking step to provide a state of the art recreational experience for OHV enthusiasts and their families. This dovetails in well with the Forest Service's National OHV Policy. This Forest can continue in taking the lead in OHV management.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Art Elek  
Fire Prevention Officer  
Nogales Ranger District

**From:** [Stephen Leslie](#)  
**To:** [Victoria Boyne](#)  
**Cc:** [Melissa Reichard](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Rosemont - OHV Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 4:47:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [PROPOSAL TO MITIGATE IMPACTS TO OHV USE IN ROSEMONT.doc](#)

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Here is the memo from Art Elk with the Forest Service

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**From:** Debby Kriegel [mailto:dkriegel@fs.fed.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2010 6:39 AM  
**To:** Stephen Leslie  
**Subject:** Rosemont - OHV Proposal

Steve,

Here is Art's idea. In the recreation scope of work I gave you on Nov. 10, task #3, bullet 1 includes my recommendations for how you can help explore the idea. Let's discuss further after you've reviewed this and given it a little thought.

Thanks.

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----- Forwarded by Debby Kriegel/R3/USDAFS on 02/03/2010 07:34 AM -----

**Arthur S Elek/R3/USDAFS**

To Debby Kriegel/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES

cc

02/02/2010 04:12 PM

Subject OHV

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