



SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS ASSOCIATION

November 12, 2015

Kerwin Dewberry, Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Dewberry:

I am writing to bring a matter to your urgent attention. It is our understanding that Hubbay Minerals has recently closed the road that traverses Gunsight Pass in the Santa Rita Mountains in the Nogales Ranger District. They also may have closed other roads in the area. Attached to the correspondence is a recent image that was taken indicating this closure.

We are deeply troubled by this recent development, and it underscores our significant concerns about this project. The road through Gunsight Pass provides access to this portion of the northern Santa Rita Mountains. This closure adversely impacts the extensive recreational use of this resource. For example, the Arizona Game and Fish Department issues hundreds of deer permits in this wildlife management unit.

Moreover, there has been insufficient public notice for this closure from the Forest Service.

Hubbay has yet to receive a final Record of Decision (ROD) from your agency as well as any regulatory approvals from other federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Notwithstanding their lack of regulatory approvals, Hubbay is apparently closing access to public lands.

The Forest Service has an obligation to ensure that the public can access their National Forest. At your earliest convenience, please review this matter with your staff and respond to us in writing with an explanation of whether the Forest Service closed this road and, if so, on what grounds. If the Forest Service did not close this road, please advise as to the actions you are going to take in response to this.

Mr. Kerwin Dewberry
November 12, 2015
Page 2

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gayle G. Hartmann". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Gayle Hartmann, President
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
8987 E. Tanque Verde #309-157
Tucson, Arizona 85749

Enc.

