

New Owners, Same Commitment

HUDBAY MINERALS' ACQUISITION OF THE ROSEMONT PROJECT INCLUDES THE SAME COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS AND PRESERVATION OF THE ARIZONA TRAIL.

Copper. It's a key element in every smartphone, hybrid car and solar power system in production, making it an essential piece of modern society. Quite simply, if we as a country want to progress beyond the era of consuming fossil fuels for energy, copper mining is a necessity. And one of the greatest deposits of copper in the country resides in Arizona.

For nearly a decade, the Rosemont Project has been in the planning and permitting phase of opening a 5,420-acre copper mine in the 138,760 acre Santa Rita Mountains southeast of Tucson. This proposed mine would yield 10 percent of the copper produced in the United States using 5 percent of the Santa Rita range. The ongoing debate is how to balance this world-class mining project with the world-class outdoor recreation opportunities and wildlife encounters the Santa Ritas have to offer.

Last summer Rosemont was acquired by HudBay Minerals, Inc., a Canadian mining corporation in operation for more than 80 years. Since this acquisition, many folks have wondered what the future holds for the Santa Rita Mountains and the Arizona Trail in particular, a National Scenic Trail spanning 800 miles from Mexico to Utah. If Rosemont's plans are approved by the US Forest Service, a 10-mile section of trail will be rerouted.

"My home in the Sierrita Mountains west of Tucson is completely off the grid," said Matthew Nelson, Executive Director of the Arizona Trail Association. "Not a single lump of coal is sacrificed to power my home. But the copper in my solar panels and my tiny wind turbine require more than three times the amount of copper in a normal home. I'd be a hypocrite if I didn't

acknowledge my, and our, need for copper. But there is a balance that must be achieved, and although there is no way to truly mitigate the damage an open pit copper mine will do to the mountains and forests, Rosemont is doing their part to help ensure the Arizona Trail will be sustained."

In order to reroute the Arizona Trail around the project area, in 2012, Nelson presented Rosemont Copper with a proposal that includes 11 miles of new, sustainably built trail, two new trailheads in Oak Tree Canyon and Hidden Canyon, a bathroom, water source, signs, gates to keep out OHVs, a perpetual easement across Rosemont's private property and funds for future trail maintenance.

"The dollar figure was 10 times higher than what Rosemont was estimating," said Nelson. "But

after I explained in detail the justification for every expense, they agreed to it. They didn't have to accept any proposal from us. This gesture was proof to me that Rosemont is committed to making things right for members of the outdoor community who love the Arizona Trail and the Santa Ritas."

Nobody knows for sure exactly when the final permits will be issued, but the agreement will guarantee that if mining does eventually occur in the Santa Ritas, that Rosemont and HudBay Minerals will do the right thing when it comes to preserving the Arizona Trail.

