



SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS ASSOCIATION

Media Release:

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Lens on the Land Presents Rosemont: What's at Stake A Photography Exhibit

Lens on the Land - a project of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, the Sonoran Institute and Josh Schachter Photography - presents "Rosemont: What's at Stake," a collection of stunning photographs celebrating the cultural and ecological richness of the Santa Rita Mountains and surrounding watersheds that would be impacted by the proposed Rosemont mine.

Never before has the cultural and ecological heritage of this unique region been represented in an exhibit of this scope and scale. Many species represented are rare to impossible to see in person. These images pull back the veil and reveal the only jaguar living in the U.S. prowling the Santa Ritas during snowfall, a flowering orchid known as Coleman's coral root and a lesser-long nosed bat feeding on an agave at night. Over the past two years, the Lens on the Land coalition has taken new photographs and collected existing compelling images from photographers, biologists and concerned citizens throughout Southern Arizona and the West.

The *Lens on the Land* exhibit strives to bring both the region's resources and threats to light by celebrating the rich biodiversity, riparian areas, cultural heritage, recreational opportunities, and rural character and economies that would be impacted by the Rosemont mine.

The proposed mine, if it acquires all necessary permits, would operate for at least 20 years, forever altering and potentially destroying the natural and cultural heritage of the area. If approved the mine would jeopardize Southern Arizona's \$2.4 billion tourism and recreation industry; nine threatened and endangered species; dark skies for our thriving astronomy industry; water availability and quality; many cultural resource sites that reflect thousands of years of Native American habitation and resource use; and rural business, including vineyards, pecan orchards, and ranching.

The photographs will be on display at Reservation Creations in Tubac from April 29th through May 1st, 10AM to 5PM. A special reception will be held on Friday, May 2nd from 6 pm – 8:30 pm. The exhibit will then be on display at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library in downtown Tucson May 5th - 31st. The exhibit is just one component of a larger movement within the greater Tucson arts community to raise awareness about this important issue through photography, dance (www.rosemontours.org), video, drawing, painting, poetry, audio interviews, and music. Photographer Josh Schachter, one of the project's organizers, reflects, "From William Henry

Jackson's images of Yellowstone in the 1870's to the more recent creation of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in Southern Arizona, photography has played a critical role in shaping our understanding of conservation issues in the West. I am excited to be working with so many other artist to once again bring art and conservation together in celebration of an ecological and cultural gem in our very own backyard."

Tubac Exhibit

Special reception: Friday, May 2nd from 6 pm – 8:30 pm; formal presentation at 7 pm (an RSVP is requested at lensontheland.com/events). Featured speakers include Gayle Hartmann and Morris Farr with Save the Scenic Santa Ritas and a short video by Frances Causey, "America's Western Soundstage in Peril." Tohono O'odham refreshments will be provided.

Exhibit Dates: April 29th - May 1st

Location: Reservation Creations gallery, 10 Camino Otero, Tubac, AZ 85646 (1 block north of Plaza Road)

Hours: 10 am – 5 pm

Exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

Event flyer: <http://www.scenicsantaritas.org/LOTLposterTubac.pdf>

Tucson main library exhibit

Exhibit Dates: May 5th -31st

Location: Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave., 85701

Hours: Mon-Wed. 9-8, Thu 9-6, Fri 9-5, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5

For more information, to RSVP for the opening reception, and for a list of future exhibit dates and locations, please visit lensontheland.com.

A preview of photography from the exhibit:



Brian Forbes Powell



Courtesy of Northern Jaguar Project/Naturalia



Ron Coleman

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas is a non-profit organization working to protect the Santa Rita and Patagonia Mountains from environmental degradation caused by mining and mineral exploration activities. Our current activities are centered around the proposed Rosemont Copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains.