

EI-30318

We own the Canyon Fork Ranch about 10 miles south of Duchesne in Indian Canyon. We own 390 acres of ground and a 62 head forest grazing cow permit and a 7 head forest grazing horse permit. This ranch has been in our family since 1908 for Six generations.

Our grazing permit runs on the flat part of the canyon where the train track will be and this will take the best feed from our cows. We are also worried the cows will get run over by the trains. We've had several run over by cars so the train would be no different.

We have several ponds that have hundreds of ducks on them. They nest on them every year. There's also a lot of wetlands and marshy areas on our place and throughout the canyon. We water our hayfields from these ponds. We have wheel lines with buried irrigation pipe that will be affected by the railway.

This ranch isn't just a recreational place for us it's our livelihood. We raise cows and hay and hardworking responsible kids. Our cows stay here all year. The ponds stay running thru the winter so we don't have to break ice for stock water.

We have herds of deer, elk and desert big horn sheep in our fields. There are ducks, eagles, hawks, owls, magpies, kill deer, robins, swallows, meadow lark and several other birds. We've seen bear, mountain lions, moose, coyotes, Fox, beaver, muskrats, raccoon, and many others.

We have a house next to the road and a cabin next to the hill with a big barn and several sheds and corrals. We don't know how these won't be affected. The railroad would have to go right in the middle of it all and that's not ok.

Every year there are mudslides in this canyon where the road has had to be closed til it's cleaned up. Last summer our neighbor had a slide flow across the road and ruined most of his hayfield. We had several slides on our place last year also. These will greatly affect the railway. Falling rock is another problem in the canyon. There are always rocks on the road all year long.

Another concern we have is forest fires caused by sparks from the trains. Our cows could easily die if we couldn't get them out in time. Air quality in the winter is already bad the trains will just make it worse.

We think this route for the railway is a bad idea. It will cause a lot of damage and problems to a canyon that's already narrow and dangerous. Please find a different route like cottonwood ridge.