



SAVE THE SCENIC  
SANTA RITAS  
ASSOCIATION

Dear Guardian of the Santa Ritas,

**Thank you for your loyal support of Save the Scenic Santa Ritas.** Please invest in our mission with a generous year-end contribution by donating online at [scenicsantaritas.org/donate](https://scenicsantaritas.org/donate). Please share this message with your contacts and post it on your social media outlets.



We are in a pitched battle with Toronto-based Hudbay Minerals and the state of Arizona in trying to stop the Copper World mine from destroying the northern half of the Santa Rita Mountains.

We have the support of Pima County, City of Tucson, Native American tribes, the environmental community, and thousands of supporters like you. We need your continued financial support, individual assistance and steadfast commitment to accomplish our shared goal of saving the Santa Ritas for future generations.

**This is literally a fight for the future.**

It's also a fight that can change the course of mining as we are at the doorstep of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Copper Rush. Arizona produces 70 percent of the nation's copper. Over the last 175 years our landscapes have been devastated, our water plundered, air polluted, lives shortened, wildlife decimated, communities abandoned, and profits transferred to the few.

Copper mining companies have enjoyed a near stranglehold on Arizona state government since statehood in 1912. The mining companies essentially write their own laws and regulations. Nothing displays this raw power more vividly than how the state issues "permits" allowing copper miners carte blanche access to deplete our groundwater.



Mining companies are exempt from groundwater pumping limits to obtain the massive amount of water needed to operate. Miners are allowed to pump as much groundwater as they like with no requirement to replenish what they use. Copper World intends to pump at least 3 billion gallons annually from the Upper Santa Cruz River Valley, with virtually none of that water replenished.

Even worse, state environmental law allows miners to waste groundwater forever. Unbelievably, the squandering of groundwater is the state's preferred way to keep toxic mining waste from contaminating the aquifer.



Mines frequently dig pits that pierce the groundwater table, creating a pit lake after mining ends and dewatering pumps are shut down. As the pit lake evaporates in the Sonoran Desert heat, groundwater from the surrounding area is drawn into the pit. Pulling water into the pit reduces the likelihood of dangerous contaminants from spreading outward into the aquifer.

We are dedicated to stopping such abuses of our finite resources. Now is the time to stand with us to protect our sacred lands, save our ancient groundwater, secure our surface waterways, protect habitats for wild creatures, and save the Santa Rita Mountains.

Copper World's Rosemont pit would evaporate approximately 120 million gallons of groundwater a year, forever. The surrounding area will see the groundwater table drop, threatening rare desert streams including Davidson Canyon and Cienega Creek, both classified as Outstanding Arizona Waters that are supposed to be protected by law from any degradation.

Hudbay calls this reprehensible waste of groundwater and likely destruction of surface water streams "responsible" mining.

### **We call it an atrocity.**

State law should be changed to require mining companies to back fill pits to prevent groundwater depletion and protect aquifers from contamination.

Make a vow to take direct action by sending Governor Katie Hobbs a clear message: "Governor Hobbs: You have the power to stop Copper World and we ask that you join Southern Arizona and oppose this unnecessary mine. Southern Arizona supported you. It's time you support Southern Arizona and stop this mine." ([engage@az.gov](mailto:engage@az.gov))

We are asking for your financial support to continue this effort. In addition, we ask you to share your vision for the future of the Santa Rita Mountains. We know that this unique Sky Island is essential for a multitude of human and non-human populations. Tell us how, together, we can create a brighter future for the mountains we love.

Donate on our website at [scenicsantaritas.org/donate](https://scenicsantaritas.org/donate). Please give today to ensure the integrity of the mountains tomorrow.

With gratitude,



Thomas Nelson, Ph.D.  
President, Board of Directors



John Dougherty  
Executive Director

