

Chris's thoughts on SunZia – where from here.

My thoughts are that SunZia has effectively happened, and that there is unlikely to be any success from here on by way of legal challenges. Further legal challenges will consume more community money, and will damage us through stress. Beyond a certain point, we find ourselves dancing to a tune played by the corporations and billionaires. I think that we have passed that point. Rather than dance, I think we should re-focus on conserving what we still have left in Cascabel. What we have left is very considerable. We may well decide to continue with actions that don't consume resources so much, such as letter-writing in an attempt to force Pattern Energy to comply with agreements about how work is to be carried out. Even that seems to yield little benefit, though, judging by the experience of the past couple of months.

It may help to consider the following ideas on Radical Resilience. These come from Richard Rohr, a Franciscan mystic in Albuquerque. He writes:

Radical resilience stirs some amount of tension and some amount of encouragement....When you think about the origins of the word resilience, it's closer to talking about plastic, something that returns back to its original shape after you bend it. I think humans don't really work like that. We don't go back to the way we were before we were broken or bent....

I'm a recovering cynic, and I used to have so much resistance to the language of resilience. It's only really in the past few years that I've had to confront a kind of resilience that isn't really about returning back to the way you were before, but is much more about reclaiming whatever new shape your form has taken. A resilience that doesn't really ask us to forget, but that carries the memory of whatever harm or whatever fire we've been through. A resilience that carries that memory and is still committed to one's survival and one's going on in the world, however that shape looks.

It's a radical idea. This is a ...James Baldwin quotation. He's actually reviewing The Exorcist film and it's this beautiful review. I recommend everyone read it because he's talking about much more than The Exorcist; he's talking about the terrors of the world. He says, "It was very important for me not to pretend that the terrors of that time left no mark on me. They marked me forever." I think he's getting at a kind of resilience that still carries memory, that still says we're marked, we've been through something, but that we're committed to ultimately surviving this thing....

It is a path along which we learn to circle back again and again to cultivate within ourselves a more merciful understanding of ourselves as we learn to see, love, and respect the still-confused and wounded aspects of ourselves. Insofar as these wounded and wounding aspects of ourselves recognize that they are seen, loved and respected in such a merciful way, they can feel safe enough to release the pain they carry into the more healed and whole aspects of ourselves.

By sending this out, I'm hoping to begin a discussion that may not be easy.

For the future, we are unlikely to be released completely from action to protect our valley. I consider the proposed/under investigation Faraday copper mine to be a far greater threat than SunZia for the lower part of the San Pedro Valley.