On April 12, these signs appeared along Harshaw Road in the area where it passes through land owned by Arizona Mining. Some were free standing, others attached to state road signs. The warnings seemed authoritative, implying that Arizona Mining had the right to prohibit people from taking photographs on a public road.

However, The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) states:

“Traffic control devices or their supports shall not bear any advertising message or any other message that is not related to traffic control.”

In response to inquiries about the legality of these prohibitive signs, Norma B. Northcross, Santa Cruz County Right-of-Way Floodplain Permits Coordinator, had workers remove the illegal signage on Monday morning.