

October 27, 2019

Neil Bosworth  
Tonto National Forest Supervisor  
2324 E. McDowell Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Subject: Bar X and Driveway Grazing Authorization

Dear Sir:

Please uphold our continued objections to the 2019 Bar X and Driveway Grazing Authorization. We are hopeful that you will more closely examine the subject EA dated Sept 2019 and recognize that it trivializes and dismisses the concerns of many residents and others who oppose cattle grazing on the Colcord/Turkey Peak pastures. The current analysis seems to be a severely weighted positioning to the benefit (profitability and convenience) of the Bar X LLC rancher instead of objectively doing what's beneficial for the environment, wildlife, and all those concerned.

We specifically oppose the following:

- 1) We oppose the re-opening of the Colcord/Turkey Peak pastures after a 40 year ban. Many more homes have been built since the ban was enacted in the 1980s. Therefore, we request an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) that would reveal the impact to the human environment (families, neighborhoods, those who utilize the area for recreation) before a final determination is made that so affects our homes, property, values, and quality of life.
- 2) We oppose the proposed corral placed between two residential communities, Colcord Estates and Ponderosa Springs, which have over 200 residences. We are concerned about the smells, pestilence, and risk for disease that a corral would bring so near residences.

Additionally, earlier Forest Service studies in the late 1970s-80s closed the Colcord/Turkey Peak pastures due to degradation of the soils and plants from cattle grazing. Changes were made that limited the number of cattle in the area to 130 cattle, down from 468 CYL. It makes no sense to increase the number of cattle grazing in the area an additional 400% which will once again deplete the area of the resources.

- 3) We oppose the very limited solutions to being "all or nothing". The position of the Forest Service should consider additional alternatives that are more balanced and compromising for people, residences, the environment, outdoor enthusiasts, and businessmen. Perhaps one such alternative could be changing the boundary of the Colcord pasture to exclude the residential communities of Colcord Estates and Ponderosa Springs. This would appease the people **and**

Neil Bosworth

Subject: Bar X and Driveway Grazing Authorization

October 27, 2019

Page Two

open up grazing lands for the cattle rancher. Or, to close the Colcord pasture entirely and open the Heber Driveway to cattle. Some other alternative solution that would be a compromise to this problem would be more palatable and fair. Thus, everyone would demonstrate a "give and take" position.

Furthermore, if you decide that the EA Sept 2019 is appropriate and stands as written, we will, of course, fence in our properties as Arizona law states, repair the damage cattle caused to our property and septic systems, endure the property devaluations the cattle will bring, deal with the pestilence, cleanup of the cattle excrement, and worry about safety hazards of cattle getting onto our property and/or on roadways. There is no fairness in this while one rancher benefits from fattening up his cattle at the expense of so many others.

Thank you for your fair and unbiased consideration.

Sincerely,

Vaughn P. Adams

Paula J. Adams