

Objection to final EA, South Fork Day Use Area, Coronado National Forest, Kerwin S. Dewberry Forest Supervisor and Reviewing Officer

Objector: Peter Waser, [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Dewberry,

My comment to the initial proposal (identified as issue/concern 9-4,9-5, reproduced below) encouraged modifications of the proposed design of the South Fork day use area that would discourage, but not prevent visitors from driving all the way to the berm at the end of the South Fork road. Specifically, I suggested that the South Fork road adjacent to the proposed parking lot be reduced to one-way downcanyon, so that as many visitors as possible perceive the day use area as the usual "end of the road" rather than driving past it all the way to the berm. I do not understand the IDT statement in response (also reproduced below) and believe that the response is not relevant to the suggestion.

I'd like to repeat my suggestion: a goal of the final design should be to minimize unnecessary motorized traffic further up South Fork beyond the proposed day use area so as to maximize the road's usability (between the day use area and the berm) by walkers and other "nonmotorized" users. Seasonal road closure certainly accomplishes this, and I support that idea, but even outside the breeding season it would be desirable for the design of the road to encourage drivers to view the new day use area, not the berm, as the default end of the South Fork Road.

I'd note also that reducing vehicular traffic upcanyon from the proposed day use area would also increase usability by handicapped visitors.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Peter Waser

From the original documents:

Issue/concern

I'd suggest making the segment of 42A adjacent to the parking area one-way downcanyon, so that all driving upcanyon is routed through the parking area (preserving the existing relatively sharp turns into the area). Requiring a stop and a sharp right turn to get onto 42A above the parking lot would encourage drivers to perceive this as a terminal loop on the road, unless they have a special need to continue upcanyon.

IDT Statement

The purpose and need as defined on pg. 2-3 of the draft EA state that this project is driven by the imbalance between visitor use and the level of services provided in the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon. The geographic boundary of this project is the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon. Alternatives proposed outside of the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon were eliminated as they do not address the purpose and need.