
From: Reed Peters [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 5:10 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-coronado
Subject: South Fork Day Use Area

Coronado National Forest; Douglas Ranger District

The Road Closure described in the June 2021 Final Environmental Assessment will be disaster for many visitors.

The proposed months of closure, March through June, are the peak visitation months to this most visited part of the Douglas Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest.

A large proportion of visitors are retired, many elderly, many with mobility issues. This closure means the South Fork Trail, the most popular USFS trail in the Chiricahuas, will be inaccessible to these people. The trail head is three quarters of a mile beyond the proposed gate.

No evidence was presented in the US Fish and Wildlife supporting documentation that the closure would actually benefit any particular species. There were generalities and suppositions.

If indeed the Mexican Spotted Owl is the reason for the road closure, please remember that the owls are active at NIGHT. Most visitors are DAY visitors. The existing road has coexisted with owls for over eighty years. The owls have not abandoned South Fork in that time, even though there are many more isolated places in this range, with no roads or even trails.

There are very few level trails here. To make the most popular one inaccessible to many people, with no scientific data, only generalities, ill serves the public.

Reed Peters
Owner, Cave Creek Ranch

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