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**Subject:** [External Email]Objection: South Fork Day Use Area

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**From:** Harold Farmer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:22 PM  
**To:** FS-objections-southwestern-coronado <[objections-southwestern-coronado@usda.gov](mailto:objections-southwestern-coronado@usda.gov)>  
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**Project:** South Fork Day Use Area  
**Responsible official:** Doug Ruppel, District Ranger, Douglas Ranger District, Coronado National Forest

**Effect of gate closure from March 1-June 30 on recreational opportunities for visitors (Alternative B: Proposed Action, Direct and Indirect Effects)**

In my previous comment, I opposed Alternative B on the grounds that:

"the project would actually make it more difficult 'to spend time in this special place' (the area beyond the berm). Alternative B would install a gate at the proposed new site, which would be locked during the tourist season. Visitors would then need to walk an additional mile and a half (round trip) from the gate to the berm, just to reach the wild area."

I wish to enlarge on this comment, which dealt only with the effect of gate closure on visits to the wilderness beyond the berm.

The FEA (pp. 13-14) states that closing the new gate from March 1-June 30 would create a quiet area which "would increase visitor satisfaction for the many visitors who enjoy walking." However, the number of visitors who will come depends, in part, on whether parking fees are charged. While well-heeled tourists may be able to afford fees for a few visits during their vacation, local residents who walk on the road or hike on the trail several times a week may find themselves effectively banished for four months.

I suggest:

(1) That no fees be charged for day-use by local residents—particularly since a local organization, Friends of Cave Creek Canyon, is already paying the lion's share of the costs. Or, if that's too much to ask, that fees be waived for holders of Golden Age/Access or Interagency Senior/Access passes.

(2) Since few, if any, tourists visit in June, re-open the gate on June 1<sup>st</sup> instead of July 1<sup>st</sup>.



Harold Farmer, 