
From: Benjamin Fortna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:47 PM
To: Dewberry, Kerwin - FS, AZ <kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov>
Cc: Martin, Michiko - FS, NM <michiko.martin@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]Chiricahua Public Access Project

[External Email]

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Dear Mr. Dewberry,

I write about the Chiricahua Public Access Project because I am very concerned about the prospect of allowing motorized access to John Long Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountain region of the Coronado National Forest.

As a property owner in the town of Portal, AZ and an avid hiker and horseback rider in the Chiricahua Mountains, I strenuously object to allowing motor vehicles into the pristine section of the national forest. The prospect of increased noise, widened roads, and all that comes with it in terms of exhaust fumes, leaked motor oil and, most alarmingly, fire danger is frankly abhorrent. One of the reasons my wife and I bought property in the area was for a wilderness experience uninterrupted by motorized vehicles. We strongly believe that the public value of the natural resources of this region is far greater when undiminished by motorized access. Quiet recreation is a clearly stated goal of the Coronado National Forest and is a prominent feature of the Forest Plan. Opening up currently quiet areas of the forest to vehicular recreation clearly runs counter to achieving that goal. I strongly urge you to prevent this ill-conceived change in usage.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours,

Benjamin C. Fortna

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