

From: Curt Bradley [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 5:42:33 PM  
To: Dewberry, Kerwin - FS, AZ <[kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov](mailto:kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov)>  
Cc: Martin, Michiko - FS, NM <[michiko.martin@usda.gov](mailto:michiko.martin@usda.gov)>  
Subject: [External Email]Chiricahua Public Access Project

[External Email]

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Kerwin Dewberry – Forest Supervisor, Coronado National Forest

Dear Mr. Dewberry,

I am writing in regards to the Chiricahua Public Access Project, specifically in regards to the John Long road construction. I own a Forest Service cabin in the Chiricahua mountains and appreciate the area for its quiet recreation opportunities, like hiking and birdwatching. I like to hike into John Long canyon because it is exactly that, quiet. It lacks the noisy vehicular and traffic that is found on many other areas of the Coronado National Forest. Opening up this canyon to ATV traffic will not serve the Forest Service's goal of quiet recreation in the Forest.

Although the stated intention is to allow access, this project will only serve a small subset of the population: those with four wheel drive vehicles or ATVs. In addition, the project will subject this densely wooded canyon to additional fire risk from campfires and recreational shooting. Any fire that starts in this remote canyon, with only one escape route, will quickly run up into higher elevations and possibly turn into a huge conflagration like the Horseshoe II fire. Because this area is so remote and the road will be so rough, getting emergency vehicles back there to fight a fire will take a long time.

I am also concerned about the potential harm to biological resources in the canyon. There have been sightings of jaguar, Mexican spotted owl, and Apache goshawk in the area and these endangered species will not benefit from ATV traffic and hunting camps. Birdwatching and wildlife viewing is a major attraction to the area and is best done on foot. I believe resources could be best spent by upgrading the poorly maintained trail and trailhead that accesses the canyon from FR 4243.

Sincerely,

Curt Bradley  
[REDACTED]