
From: Dirk Sigler [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:12 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-coronado
Subject: Chiricahua Public Access Project

From: Dirk Sigler, [REDACTED]

As a 20 year resident in this area I strongly object to the addition of a road near the Dart Ranch leading into John Long Cyn. I cite the following:

- 1) Vehicular traffic into this remote canyon that borders the Chiricahua Wilderness will dramatically increase the probability of human caused wildland fire. This poses significant risk to ground/air personnel responding to these incidents. The draft EA fails to adequately weigh these threats
 - A) Prevailing winds in the area and the topography of the canyon will favor rapid expansion of fire incidents with the likelihood of runs into the adjacent uplands with catastrophic consequences for the resource.
- 2) The introduction of non-native invasive plant species poses a real threat to the health of the intact native biodiversity of John Long Cyn. This canyon is unique with its stands of diverse conifers.
- 3) The wide camping corridor allowed in the proposal will certainly degrade the biotic communities in the canyon from the introduction of vehicle traffic.
- 4) Given the intact natural condition of the location, deterioration of the overall character of the place by motorized vehicles will likely result.
- 5) If completed this project will divide user groups. Monitoring surveys indicate "quiet recreation" as a primary goal of visitors to the Forest. This includes those from the hunting community. In fact, if constructed, a road into John Long Cyn allows a small user group (ORV owners) to compromise the experience of the majority groups (traditional hunters, equestrians, hikers, birders and biologists.) ORV owners comprise 5% of Forest visitation.

A better use for the resources required for this road construction would be to rehabilitate the trails that access John Long Cyn now. Neglect of these once frequently used routes has resulted in lowered visitation from the largest user groups: hunters, horseback riders and hikers.

The draft EA inadequately weighs the above considerations. In the case of John Long Cyn, this project, if built, will result in long-term damage to the resource.

Sincerely,
Dirk Sigler