
From: loren Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:49 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-coronado
Subject: "OBJECTION: Chiricahua Public Access Project"

Dear Kurt Davis, Deputy Forest Supervisor and and Doug Ruppel, District Ranger, This is a letter documenting my objection to your finding of No significant Impact on the Chiricahua Public Access Project.

There is no question that opening up motorized public access by building legal, permanent roads will impact the sensitive wildlife and species in John Long Canyon and Horseshoe Canyon. The only living beings perhaps not impacted will be the human beings who are driving into these areas. (Until they start a wild land fire). All other creatures and plants will be impacted. It is 2023 now and we live in a totally different world with the risk of wildfire far greater than ever before, in a state that has had a long term drought for many years, thus greatly enhancing the chance of mega fires in a relatively remote area.

This is a time in the life of the planet where we need to be protecting wildlife and plants and limiting the kind of easy access these new roads would provide. There are already plenty of motorized access roads in the Coronado Forest and in the Chiricahua Ecosystem Management Area. A better use of public dollars would be to better maintain existing trails (you rely heavily on our volunteer hours to maintain trails) but not add any new roads, including ones that link up to the past and past usage. We are in the present and looking to the future requires being far better stewards of public lands , in particular in protecting public lands. Motorized access greatly increases the threat of spreading invasive species and the threat of human caused fires. I see nowhere in your No Impact finding any plan to increase your ability to fight fires in the areas you propose to open up. Or any plan to address the increased spread of invasive species that new access would result in. This makes no sense. And is an incomplete response.

I OBJECT to your No Impact finding .

Loren Smith
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