

From: Jim Notestine [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 3:52 PM

To: herwin.dewberry@usda.gov <herwin.dewberry@usda.gov>

Cc: kurt.davis@usda.gov <kurt.davis@usda.gov>; Martin, Michiko - FS, NM <michiko.martin@usda.gov>

Subject: [External Email] John Long & Horeshoe Canyons in the Chiricahua Mountains

[External Email]

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I have hiked, backpacked and birded most of the Chiricahua Mtns. Including John Long and Horeshoe Canyons. I was very unhappy about learning about your proposal to put 4WD access into them. Those should have been included in the Chiricahua Wilderness designation back in 1980. I am now 84 and was involved back then. The USFS was "stingy" on the boundary back then. You should not implement this access requested by the Arizona Game and Fish and hunting groups, especially access for bear hunters. The border wall has already put pressure on the bear population that seasonally migrated into Mexico in the winter, they don't need additional new pressure from bear hunters. This is not a public access issue. I had adequate access for birding and hiking. I have seen spotted owls and goshawks in these canyons. Jaguars have been sighted in these canyons. A 4WD road would do little to improve general public access. I owned a 4WD for 40 years and there was far more 4WD access than I needed all over the Coronado Forest including the Chiricahuas. John Long Cyn. Is deeply forested and opening it to campers and campfires would expose the area to devastating fires. We need more not less wild and quiet areas.

Please do not develop these canyons, leave it for others to enjoy the way I enjoyed it! Protect the biological and cultural values there!

Sincerely,

Jim Notestine

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