

From: Wynne Brown [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, August 5, 2023 8:02 AM
To: Dewberry, Kerwin - FS, AZ <kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov>
Cc: kurt.davis@usda.gov; Martin, Michiko - FS, NM <michiko.martin@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]Please protect the serenity of John Long Canyon

[External Email]

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Kerwin Dewberry – Forest Supervisor

Coronado National Forest

300 W Congress St

Tucson, AZ 85701

August 5, 2023

Dear Mr. Dewberry,

Although I have already submitted an Objection to the Chiricahua Public Access Project, this issue is vital enough to me that I'm also writing to you personally.

I now live in Tucson, but my personal history in the Chiricahuas goes back to 1972 when I was a volunteer at the Southwestern Research Station and 1973 when I was the Assistant Director there. Later I owned 44 acres in Whitetail Canyon and Paradise for more than 30 years. I had horses for many years, and one of my favorite areas to ride was John Long Canyon, specifically because it was so undisturbed. Horses and ATVs are often an unfortunate, sometimes even fatal combination, and it was always a relief to ride somewhere I didn't have to be on high alert – unlike places like Gardner Canyon.

My horses are gone now, but I'm still a hiker, trail runner, naturalist, and science writer. I still visit the Chiricahuas often – particularly Rucker Canyon and the surrounding area, where the subject of one of my books (*The Forgotten Botanist: Sara Plummer Lemmon's Life of Science and Art*, University of Nebraska Press, 2021) created remarkable and exquisite scientific illustrations of the local plants in 1881.

Nearly 150 years later, it's still possible to find those plants, along with the peace and quiet experienced by Sara Lemmon in John Long Canyon – but not if the canyon is opened to ORV traffic. The additional motorized traffic and the wide camping corridor is all too likely to

- (a) bring in introduced invasive plants,
- (b) damage existing biotic communities,
- (c) reduce the habitat of sensitive species, including the jaguar, the Mexican spotted owl, and the Apache Goshawk.

But my biggest concern is fire ... the 2011 Horseshoe II fire burned my barn and 60 of my 64 acres in Whitetail Canyon. John Long Canyon is as densely wooded as Whitetail used to be and much narrower. The increased likelihood of fire from campfires and recreational shooting by ORV users is a potentially catastrophic danger to the public and firefighters alike.

The AZ G&F funds that have been designated for this project will only benefit a tiny percentage of users: ORV owners are 5 percent of Forest visitation and have plenty of other access in the Coronado. Please consider spending these funds on upgrading existing trails that will benefit the rest of us, hikers, birdwatchers, and equestrians, who savor this special biodiverse and unique area quietly – on foot and on hoof. :-)

Many thanks for the valuable work you do to protect our public lands – and I look forward to whenever we next meet!

Best,

Wynne Brown

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Wynne Brown (she/her/hers)

• Freelance writer/editor/designer

2022 Pima County Public Library Writer in Residence

• Author

[The Forgotten Botanist: Sara Plummer Lemmon's Life of Science and Art](#)

* 2022 SPUR AWARD for Best Western Biography *

* 2022 WILLA AWARD for Creative Nonfiction *

* 2022 Southwest Books of the Year TOP PICK *

[Remarkable Arizona Women](#)

3rd edition now available!

[Falcon Guide to Trail Riding Arizona](#)

• Co-editor and designer

[Cave Creek Canyon: Revealing the Heart of Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains](#)

* 2nd edition!

* Publication of the Year: Public Lands Alliance

* Best Published Nonfiction Book: Arizona Authors Association

• Poet

[Spilled: A Collection by the Dry River Poets](#)



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