

**From:** Anna Valer Clark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 7:05 AM  
**To:** Dewberry, Kerwin - FS, AZ <[kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov](mailto:kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** [kurt.davis@usda.gov](mailto:kurt.davis@usda.gov) [michiko.martin@usda.gov](mailto:michiko.martin@usda.gov)  
**Subject:** [External Email]Response to proposed further access in John Long canyon

[External Email]

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Dear Mr Dewberry,

I lived in the Chiricahua Mountains for forty years . I had many opportunities to see how visitors used the camp grounds, and I talked to them about their views of the forest. Over time, opinions have changed and campers are now very interested in preserving the national forests, not only for their personal use, but also for wildlife. They are beginning to recognize that we have something special here in southern Arizona. We have bears, mountain lions and now the rare visit of the Jaguar. We are an important migratory corridor for animals.

A few visitors are interested in access for ATV s which, in many cases, cause erosion or compaction of the soil and is disturbing to animals. This group is very limited although they are vocal. They certainly do not represent the opinions of the vast majority .

In short, I strongly advise against further access in John Long Canyon.

Valer Austin Clark

Sent from my iPhone

Letter should be addressed to:

Kerwin Dewberry – Forest Supervisor  
Coronado National Forest  
300 W Congress St  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Dewberry,

I am writing in response to the Chiricahua Public Access Project.

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The address of the Forest Supervisor is: [kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov](mailto:kerwin.dewberry@usda.gov)

Be sure to copy the deciding officer, Deputy Forest Supervisor Kurt Davis [kurt.davis@usda.gov](mailto:kurt.davis@usda.gov) and the Regional Forester on your letter: [michiko.martin@usda.gov](mailto:michiko.martin@usda.gov)

If you live in or near the Chiricahua Mountains, your letter should convey that physical proximity. If you don't live in or near the Chiricahuas, express an attachment to and appreciation of the Chiricahua Mountains. If you camp and/or hike there, or have a favorite place or places, mention that.

If you have personal experience with John Long Canyon (Rucker Canyon area) or Horseshoe Canyon (just south of Portal), state this as well.

State your interest in outdoors recreation and mention any such activities you engage in, such as birdwatching, hiking, camping, backpacking, etc.

Other suggested topics/talking points:

1. We believe the cultural and biological resources found in both John Long and Horseshoe Canyon have a greater value than the limited public access this project would provide.
2. We believe the extraordinary biological values found in John Long Canyon represent a greater value to the public and the national forest than providing vehicular access to yet another unique and sensitive canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains.
3. Quiet Recreation is a stated goal of the Coronado National Forest and is prominent in the Forest Plan. Opening up currently quiet areas of the forest to vehicular recreation seems counterproductive to achieving that goal. How does this project help the Coronado National Forest meet this important goal?

4. How is this project a benefit to the public at large? Completing this project would enable only a very small percentage of the public, those with high clearance 4-wheeled drive vehicles, to access John Long Canyon. How is this meaningfully increasing public access?
5. Current road access for that subset of forest users is sufficient in the Chiricahua Mountains. This project does nothing that increases access for the majority of users in either John Long or Horseshoe Canyons. Forest users can already drive to the beautiful rim of John Long Canyon. They just can't drive down into the densely wooded and fire-prone canyon bottom. This current lack of vehicular access makes this one of the most delightful day-hiking and birdwatching areas on the Coronado National Forest.
6. We believe opening up John Long Canyon to large numbers of campers creates a risk to the public. The geography of this canyon is unique in that it is both narrow and goes for several miles into the mountains. If John Long Canyon was full of people and a fire began at the mouth of the canyon and burned up canyon, many people would die. Building a road into the canyon would increase both the number of campers who could become trapped by a fire, and the likelihood of ignitions from vehicles and human activities.
7. If the Coronado National Forest were serious about access, they would instead be upgrading poor roads in high-use areas to Management Level Three, which would allow for passenger cars. This would create far more access than a rough Management Level Two road in a remote area, which only the small percentage of forest users with 4-wheeled vehicles can access. This project does not increase public access. This project caters to a small subset of forest visitors who have vehicles which allow them to already access many more areas than the average forest visitor.
8. We understand funding from Arizona Game and Fish is driving these projects. Projects should not be initiated simply due to funding being provided by another agency. In particular, projects which ostensibly provide public access, should be initiated when they benefit the public as a whole. Such projects should not compromise the enjoyment of the larger public and their values, to provide access for a limited subset of the public, in response to special interest money.

When utilizing these talking points **use your own language as much as possible**. Also, so letters do not look too similar, **rearrange the talking points into whatever order you think best**. For example, instead of 1-8 you might order them 1, 4, 5, 7, 2, 3, 6, and 8, or any other combination. Whatever feels right to you is good. These two steps will decrease the uniformity of the letters, which increases their effectiveness.