**Subject: Objection to Closure of Apache-Sitgreaves Forest Road 161**

**To: Michiko Martin, Regional Forester**

**Email: objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov**

Dear Ms. Martin,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed closure of **Apache-Sitgreaves Forest Road 161 from public use**. While I understand the need for responsible forest management and conservation, I believe that this closure would have significant negative impacts on public access, recreational opportunities, and local communities.

1. **Access to Recreational Areas**: Forest Road 161 provides essential access to recreational areas, including hiking trails, fishing spots, and camping sites. Its closure would limit opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, families, and tourists to explore and enjoy the natural beauty of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.
2. **Emergency Response and Safety**: Forest Road 161 serves as a critical route for emergency responders, law enforcement, and search-and-rescue teams. Closing this road could delay response times during emergencies, jeopardizing public safety and well-being.
3. **Local Economy**: The closure of Forest Road 161 would negatively impact local businesses that rely on tourism and outdoor recreation. Visitors contribute to the local economy by purchasing supplies, staying in nearby accommodations, and supporting restaurants and shops.
4. **Alternative Solutions**: Instead of a complete closure, I urge the Forest Service to consider alternative solutions. These may include seasonal closures, improved signage, or maintenance efforts to address specific concerns while still allowing public access.

In summary, I respectfully request that the Forest Service reconsider the closure of Forest Road 161 and explore alternative approaches that balance conservation with public access. Our forests are a shared resource, and it is crucial to find solutions that benefit both the environment and the people who cherish these lands.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your commitment to responsible forest management.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Your Address] [City, State ZIP Code] [Email Address] [Phone Number]