

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/31/2014 5:12:57 PM

First name: Bear

Last name: Wallow

Organization:

Title:

Comments: No Helicopters on Pusch Ridge comments

Please accept the attached comments on the proposal to allow helicopters in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness.

Sincerely,

Dwight Metzger

(Comments also pasted below)

July 31, 2014

Shalonda Guy

Deputy District Ranger

Coronado National Forest

5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road

Tucson, AZ 85750

comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us

Dear Ms. Guy,

Please include this letter as my comments for the official record of the Draft Environmental Assessment that proposes Authorizing Helicopter Use by the Arizona Game and Fish Department within the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area [PRWA].

I have lived in Tucson for 25 years and am a regular visitor to the Pusche Ridge Wilderness. I am opposed to the use of helicopters in the wilderness for any reason, and explicitly oppose the request by Arizona Game and Fish to use helicopters to monitor, capture and relocate bighorn sheep. The likelihood that the helicopter exemption will also allow for the pursuance and killing of predators is also of great concern to me.

Wilderness is a special and important designation that should not (and by letter of law cannot) be abused or bypassed for less than necessary reasons. Your determination to allow helicopters to be used in the ways proposed by AZGF would indeed abuse the spirit of this designation.

As a recreational user I find the presence of helicopters to be an extreme violation of my experience. It is also an obvious violation to the wildlife and sanctity of nature that enjoys the protection of the wilderness designation.

Please do not permit the use of helicopters in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. Instead, a full Environmental Impact Statement should be conducted on the helicopter proposal, as well as the project in general.

Sincerely,

Dwight Metzger

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