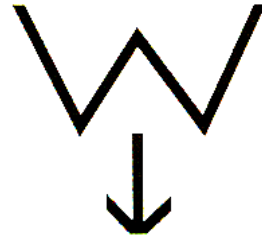


# **GROSETA RANCHES LLC**

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October 24, 2022

Mr. Dale Deiter, Supervisor  
Prescott National Forest

RE: Verde Recreation Plan Project  
Verde Ranger District  
Prescott National Forest

Dear Mr. Deiter:

This letter is in follow up to the comments that I submitted on January 17, 2022, regarding the above proposed project. After reviewing the final report, I do not see that my comments were included in the nineteen (19) Comments/Responses found in Appendix D. Could you please explain how you determined what comments would be included in the final report for review by the public?

I am opposed and object to your decision to authorize the activities described in the "Purpose and Need" and "Proposed Action".

The Forest Lands are already maxed out with both motorized and non-motorized trails. The destruction to our forest lands caused by these existing and the new proposed trails is atrocious.

The severe soil erosion caused by all these trails on both the Verde and Jerome Grazing Allotments is unprecedented. In addition, this erosion has a negative impact to the Verde River specifically turbidity, water quality and sediment issues.

Building 76 miles of additional trails will cause more damage to the forest lands and the Verde River Watershed.

Regarding dispersed camping, keeping the forest closed (Forest Order issued in 2019) to this activity has been one of the best decisions made by the Forest Service to protect our Watersheds. I strongly support that no new areas be identified and made available to dispersed camping. The public needs to be encouraged to use camping sites located in the private sector.

This proposed project would also cause severe harm to the eight (8) endangered species and seven (7) critical habitat designations. Increasing recreational activities in these areas is ludicrous and will cause severe harm to these species.



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Regarding wildlife, this proposed project would adversely impact all wildlife species. Since the Hayfield Draw ATV trailhead has been developed, there are no antelope in the Hayfield Draw Watershed. This recreational activity has completely depopulated the antelope population and has caused severe hardships on the remaining bird and wildlife populations

In summary, the newly proposed actions would result in severe environmental consequences, plus create a more adverse impact to ranching operations / activities on both the Verde and Jerome Grazing Allotments.

The Forest Service needs to reduce the motorized and non-motorized trails and reduce the number of recreational activities on the Verde Ranger District. The people pressure resulting in adverse impacts to Forest Lands need to be scaled back and not increased to protect the overall health of our watersheds in the Verde Valley.

I strongly support the “no action alternative” and ask that you reconsider your decision and rule for the “no action alternative”.



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