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Title:

Comments: It is my understanding that the Forest Service plans to close the "user created access roads" to camp sites in the forest that are more than 300' from a road. This would effectively close these camp sites to anyone using a motor home or trailer for camping. This is just wrong!

I retired and purchased a second house, a fifth wheel toy hauler and a UTV in Lakeside for the purpose of riding the trails in the Apache-Sitegreaves Forest. I've ridden trails in many states but none are as pretty as here in AZ. Once a. Both I go out to the forest to camp and ride with friends. We don't hunt. We just get together because we enjoy camping and UTV riding. This is the only time we can get together each month. If additional funds are needed to maintain and keep these camping areas that are further than 300' off the road and the motorized riding trails open then increase the OHV sticker cost and require paid camping permits. I would be happy to pay an additional amount for the continued use of the forest to camp and ride my UTV.

There has been no survey, but my observation suggests that 9 out of 10 or more of the campers in the forest are using a motor home or trailer. It would also make it difficult for even tent campers to access these sites, since they would have to pack all their gear, food and water into the site. Can you imagine a young family packing the necessities for a week camping into one of these sites? Again, there has been no survey of sites 300' or more from a road but most sites are more than 300' from the road. Who wants to camp next to the road with the traffic and dust? These campsites have been used for years and even generations and the user created roads to these sites should remain open for all users. Not including these "user created access roads" will effectively close many of the camping areas in the Forest. While the environmentalist back east may be delighted with this, I find it incredulous the Forest Service apparently believes, that effectively closing all these sites is an acceptable outcome to the vast majority of the users of the Forest.