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Comments: I write in general support of the Draft Environmental Analysis for the new Day Use Area of the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon, but with one significant exception. I object to the closing of the road from the Day Use Area up to the berm, March-June.

My wife and I have been visitors to Cave Creek Canyon for more than twenty years. We are bird and wildlife enthusiasts, as well as artists, and are attracted by the natural beauty and wildlife of the Canyon. The proposed Day Use Area just .2 mile from FR 42 seems well considered to meet the needs of visitors, with informational signage to educate visitors and students of the forest. The location, near to FR 42, will help minimize traffic in the upper canyon.

I favor keeping the road open to the berm, with traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and educational signage to reduce vehicle speed and dust. In our many years of visiting the canyon we have not seen a tremendous growth in the number of visitors, and do not believe that the canyon is in danger of being overwhelmed. We have also noted that many visitors are advanced in age, with mobility issues, and a .75 mile walk on gravel road before actual getting to the forest trail would prevent many from enjoying and appreciating the upper canyon.

I am concerned about the protection of wildlife, but I don't see that the current level of visitation warrants closing the road. This could be a measure for the future if, and only if, visitor patterns change significantly.

Additionally, I was surprised to find mention of a Border Wall in this document. A Border Wall would seem to have no bearing on the environmental character of the canyon. I would like to see those politically charged references removed.

Thank you for considering my comments,

David Welch

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