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Organization:

Title:

Comments: For 35 years my birding friends and family members have been gathering at Portal for a week of birdwatching and nature hikes focusing on the South Fork trail of Cave Creek, every two to three years when possible. We've been witness to the damage of fire and floods, and unfortunate budget cutbacks affecting the Forest Service. All of us, appreciate the productive teamwork of the Forest and volunteers of the Friends of Cave Creek in this plan to restore basic day-use amenities to the South Fork trail, which is so important for birders and naturalists visiting the Chiricahuas. The one proposal I would like to ask you to revisit is the road closure, which punishes older visitors like me: We would face a 3/4-mile hike on that road to the berm, only to face another 1/2-mile hike over that very difficult washed out non-road, non-trail, just to get to the trailhead, where we encounter what we truly came for, a trail through nature!