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Comments:

With great sadness I must support Plan A.

I am a permanent resident of Portal and have known and enjoyed the Chiricahuas for well over 50 years. I have enthusiastically supported the Friends of Cave Creek Canyon, and I applaud those who have given of their time and expertise over the years.

However, the South Fork development issue has caused something I've never before seen in Portal and the Cave Creek Area: dissension, anger and pitting neighbor against neighbor. One of the most beautiful and unique characteristics of this small community has always been its tolerance and inclusivity. Residents have come to live here over the years because of the Canyon's beauty and diversity, but also for the sense of community they find here, a sense of caring for one another and helping those in need.

I strongly request that the US Forest Service back away from such a contentious development project (Plan B). There is definitely a need for some visitor amenities in South Fork, but I am very distressed to see that trying to solve the problem has led to alienating good neighbors. It now risks dividing the community that has protected the Canyon for so long.

I believe the community, FOCC and USFS can do better. I would hate to see the USFS become instrumental in damaging an otherwise very loving and stable community.