

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/17/2020 9:11:00 PM

First name: Consuelo

Last name: Weitz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As Idaho residents wintering in Arizona, we have become frequent visitors to our favorite vacation spot on earth: Cave Creek Ranch. From there we have spent a lot of time exploring the south fork of Cave Creek. We had hoped that the road beyond the berm would be repaired and the picnic area there would be restored. We are now in our seventies and would not be able to continue enjoying the birding in the area above the berm if the access were to be closed from March to June. The hike from the proposed developed area up to the berm and beyond would preclude many seniors from enjoying the birding and walking that they have enjoyed. Your proposal states: "the proposed action moves the area toward the primitive end of the spectrum, which would benefit visitors who enjoy more primitive and quiet recreation opportunities", and referring to road closure: " would benefit visitors who prefer a quieter place to walk and birdwatch." It seems to me that if your goal is to greatly reduce the number of visitors and to discriminate against seniors who are probably among the most frequent users of this area, then you would accomplish that goal. If you really want to serve all the people who have frequented this area for walking and birding, then you will not close the road to the berm during any of the year and certainly not during the most popular birding time of all. I hope that you will reconsider the closure of the road from March to June.