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Comments: My family and I oppose the new development within the riparian area of South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon. We live across the border in New Mexico and visit this area during the cool months for hiking and relaxation.

South Fork needs protection because of the following:

- Uniquely picturesque and world-renowned for its biodiversity
- Designated a Zoological-Botanical Area by the US Forest Service
- Included within a second, special Birds of Prey Zoological-Botanical Area
- Major component of the global-priority Chiricahua Important Bird Area, designated by National Audubon Society
- Stronghold for rare and local species, including Elegant Trogon, recent Eared Quetzal, Montezuma Quail, Whiskered Screech-Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Zone-tailed Hawk, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Ringtail, Mountain Lion, Black Bear, many lizards and snakes
- Designated area of high connectivity for Jaguar [critical habitat now being litigated]
- Species-rich riparian habitat includes Apache Pine, Chihuahua Pine, Arizona Sycamore, Arizona Cypress, Bigtooth Maple, and diverse southwestern oaks
- Both Cave Creek and South Fork are protected as Outstanding Arizona Waters

There are very serious inadequacies in the draft EA, which offers only 2 options, both flawed: Plan A--no action; and Plan B--develop the full proposal

With only two options.

Also the new development located in the heart of a critical Protected Activity Center (PAC) for a pair of Mexican Spotted Owls. This Proposal needs a full Environmental Impact Statement because of expected negative impacts on the Federally-endangered Mexican Spotted Owl. Also, fragmentation of habitat within South Fork's limited canyon bottom was ignored, as well as degradation of the natural values that the ZBA was created to protect