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Organization:

Title:

Comments: FS Environmental Assessment 2020 Comments

-Since this is an all or nothing proposal, I support NO ACTION, Plan A Alternative.

-I support PRIORITIZING the appropriately designated FS Zoological Botanical Area and the Birds of Prey Area.

-I support PRIORITIZING AND PROTECTING the wide diversity of flora and fauna like the Spotted Owl PAC.

-I do NOT support prioritizing and possibly increasing human and vehicle use along FSR 42E as well as new construction along the floodplain as outlined in Alternative B.

-I would support using and expanding Sunnyflat Campground's facilities as it already has Creek access, a toilet and water, day use parking (which could be expanded), established fee stations, and arguably the best view in the canyon. New accessible paths could conceivably be connected to the already paved areas and to nearby S. Fork Rd. to relieve car use pressure in this sensitive area.

-I support closing the road with handicap or senior parking at the junction of FSR 42 & 42E. A permit could be obtained at the Visitor Information Center for those with mobility challenges.

-I would support paving a path along a portion FSR 42E to provide accessibility and potentially connect with the Sunnyflat accessible trail to FSR 42E.

-I support continuing to use the Visitor Information Center as the Educational Center without building additional facilities 1 mile upstream. It is perfectly designed for school buses and RVs and it is the only appropriate place for large numbers of students. Students can already access the connected trail system directly from the VIC to Sunnyflat Area and potentially to FSR 42E.

-I support more scientific research relating to the impacts on sensitive, threatened or endangered plant and animal species with a thorough Environmental Impact Statement. This is not accomplished with this preliminary review called an Environmental Assessment.

-I would like to see AZ Game & Fish and U.S. Fish & Wildlife do an assessment also.

-I support public comment and am pleased with the level of public access in the existing VIC, campgrounds, day use areas and extensive trail system of the FS in Cave Creek Canyon. In addition there are many privately owned facilities nearby that cater to the public which also relieves the pressure on the riparian area under consideration for development.