

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/23/2020 8:48:02 PM

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Comments: I was only recently made aware of the proposal to construct new access roads in the Chiricahua mountains as described in the current Environmental Assessment (EA) and thus have not had time to thoroughly consider the proposal. Several initial thoughts, however, come to mind.

First, perhaps I missed it but I did not see any mention of the cost of the project. Earlier this year in a draft EA regarding a day use area in South Fork, the Forest Service (FS) indicated that their funding was low such that they would not be able to commit funding for the project for more than 10 years. The current EA suggests that FS intends to provide permanent motorized access suggesting continual maintenance costs after completion of the initial work. Thus, this brings to question whether the need for the project justifies the cost. The cost of the project and ongoing maintenance should be indicated in the EA.

Second, the need of the project seems to be related to use by hunters and perhaps dispersed campers. Road access already exists for the locations mentioned in the EA and building connecting roads to these existing roads seem unnecessary. Connecting roads could result in excess use by ATVs and other traffic causing disturbance to wildlife as well as campers.

Third, increased human activities could result in potential for accidental fires resulting from camp fires, tossed cigarettes, vehicle sparks, etc. and we don't need any more of that. There would also be potential for increased amounts of garbage and human waste.

In my opinion the EA needs to consider these and other issues more carefully. An EIS might be more appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.