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Organization:

Title:

Comments: We are the oldest (80+) members of an extended family of 52 that own a small log cabin at Sacramento. The family built the cabin in the mid-1960's and it was destroyed in the Spring Canyon fire of 1974. We rebuilt it from 1990-1993 as one member came into unexpected funds. It was spared from the Scott Able fire by about a 1/4 of mile. This introduction is to express our family's 6 decades of love the Sacramento-Aqua Chiquita Canyon area. Our family members from El Paso, Las Cruces, Cloudcroft, Artesia, Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston to enjoy the mountain meadows of the Sacramentos. We have walked and picnicked in special places like Bear Slide, Monument Springs, Roger's Ruins, Pepper-Hey-Scog Able Canyons, but much less these days. The upper Aqua Chiquite seems to have lost its untrammelled beauty as the management battle to protect sensitive meadow habitats on public lands has given in to the powerful special interest of cattle grazing. We understand that ranchers need to make a living. Several of our family come from ranching backgrounds and know that cattle require dependable access to water and thus we acknowledge the difficulties involved as springs and streams decline. Perhaps the planning staff could venture out for walks on the upper end of T123 or up the rough road/track 438 to Rogers Ruins or just 300 feet off of Road 437 at Pepper Canyon. To experience the total loss of human to nature relationship. Step carefully as the extent of cow crap was incredible at the Pepper Canyon site last fall when we tried to hike up just to view aspen and maple colors on public lands. Surely the new planning effort can identify innovative solutions to this complex issue as fencing out is clearly not working. Perhaps the USFS could contract with private wranglers to remove cattle from within the fenced area from Bear Slide to Barrel Spring for transfer to other less sensitive grazing permit sited. Thanks for your time and consideration of our comments.