Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/31/2014 11:01:32 PM
First name: Anon
Last name: nestaboo@cox.net
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Comments in response to EA for Authorizing Helicopter Use by the Arizona Game and Fish Department within Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area.

The Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area has always been on of my family's favorite destinations for recreation in the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. We have hiked many of the trails over the years and it is always a welcome diversion from the hustle and bustle of the city. This type of natural ecosystem is one of the primary reasons we love the Tucson area.

Although we will undoubtedly be returning to the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area in the coming months and years, we are very concerned about the helicopter activity in said area in relation to the Bighorn sheep reintroduction project. This intrusive activity will certainly diminish the value of our recreational experience as much as it will interfere with the opportunity for the area's wildlife to go about their daily routines without invasive human presence. My family and I want to see wildlife as it appears naturally; not collared, netted, and intimidated by human machinery.

Furthermore, the Draft EA does not provide sufficient documentation to allow a Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, the project should be rejected or an Environmental Impact Statement prepared.

Sincerely,

Gary Vella
Jane Parent
Coral Vella-Parent
5329 S. Morning Sky Ln.
Tucson, AZ 85747-5814

I am a regular visitor to the Pusch Ridge Wilderness in the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. I enjoy hiking/backpacking/photography [choose one or more for your message] there and plan to return to the area often in the coming year. However, the use of helicopters for the Bighorn sheep reintroduction project concerns me because I know that the overflights and helicopter landings will negatively impact my recreational experience. I am also concerned that all of the sheep that will live in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness area will be collared and this will detract from the primitive experience I am seeking.