Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/31/2014 5:17:31 AM
First name: Rachel
Last name: Winch
Organization:
Title:
Comments: No Helicopters in Pusch Ridge Wilderness

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Rachel Winch and I am a resident in the state of AZ. I am a regular visitor to the Pusch Ridge Wilderness in the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. I enjoy hiking and camping 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. The Draft EA does not provide sufficient documentation to allow a Finding of No Significant Impact and therefore the project should be rejected or an Environmental Impact Statement prepared.

I also support the comments submitted by Friends of Wild Animals and the Sierra Club and share those groups' concerns about the bighorn sheep reintroduction program. I agree that approving helicopter landings would exacerbate that program's already substantial impacts on wilderness and wildlife.

Thank you for hearing and responding to my concerns,

Rachel Winch
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Tucson, AZ 85745