



File Code: 1950
Date: May 31, 2023

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Coronado National Forest,

We are providing an opportunity to object to the proposed Chiricahua Public Access Project on the Coronado National Forest, Douglas Ranger District, in Cochise County, Arizona. A Final Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Draft Decision Notice have been prepared for the proposed action to authorize construction of 2.7 miles of new National Forest System Roads (system roads) to provide legal, permanent, motorized, public access to existing system roads in John Long, North Fork of Pinery, and Horseshoe Canyons. The general location of the proposed project is the Chiricahua Ecosystem Management Area in Cochise County, Arizona. The location for the proposed project is illustrated on Figure 1 in the Final Environmental Assessment.

The Chiricahua Public Access Project is an activity implementing a land management plan, not authorized under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. The decision to be made is subject to the pre-decisional administrative review (objection) process pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218, subparts A and B.

The proposed action would accomplish the purpose and need to restore and secure permanent, legal, public, motorized access to existing National Forest System Roads consistent with Forest Plan objectives and the direction to “increase the number of permanent legal access routes to and within the Coronado National Forest by resolving the legal status deficiencies of 40 to 50 existing and proposed National Forest System roads and trails, using a variety of methods, every 10 years” (Forest Plan, 2018). The planning process is compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act, along with the requirements, clearances, and consultations for the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The Final Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Draft Decision Notice are available for review online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57856>. Questions concerning this authorization should be directed to Joseph Harris, District Range and Watershed Staff, at (520) 388-8447 or joseph.e.harris@usda.gov.

How to File an Objection and Timeframe

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed action during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted, timely, and specific written comments regarding the proposed action unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be submitted to the reviewing officer: Kurt Davis, Deputy Forest Supervisor, 300 West Congress Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. Objections may be submitted via mail or electronically. Electronic objections, in common (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt)



formats, may be submitted to: objections-southwestern-coronado@usda.gov with subject: "OBJECTION: Chiricahua Public Access Project" or may be submitted using the Public Comment Form at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=57856>.

Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of a legal notice in the *Herald/Review County Edition*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

- 1) Objector's name and address as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 with a phone number, if available;
- 2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- 3) When there are multiple objectors, the lead objector must be provided. Verification of the identity of the lead objector must be provided upon request or the reviewing officer will designate a lead objector as provided for in 36 CFR 218.5(d);
- 4) The name of the proposed action, the name and title of the responsible official and the name of the National Forest and/or Ranger District on which the proposed action would be implemented;
- 5) A description of the aspects of the proposed action addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed action; if applicable, how the objector believes the Final Environmental Analysis or Draft Decision, specifically, violates the law, regulation or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider;
- 6) A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior, specific written comments on the proposed action and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment (36 CFR 218.8(c)).

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 36 CFR 218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to insure a timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Sincerely,



DOUG RUPPEL
District Ranger