

The South Fork Day Use Area Project

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Purpose

In Sept., 2014 Hurricane Odile caused major flooding in Cave Creek Canyon. The very popular trail head area at the end of Cave Creek South Fork Rd. [FS42E] and about ¼ mile of road were destroyed. Without toilet facilities, Cave Creek became polluted from human waste. The purpose of this Project is to replace the vault toilet, benches, picnic tables, and other elements that enable all of the public to appreciate and enjoy the area.

This project is very small, only occupying less than 1 acre of land in the entire canyon. Additionally, it is just on the edge of the Biological-Zoological Zone, about 300 yards from the junction with FR 42.

This project provides many benefits to the community and to visitors:

- Toilet facilities that are handicapped accessible
- 3 well separated picnic tables
- Information about the canyon
- Access to the canyon for the mobility impaired
- More dispersed parking. The berm area does not have adequate parking for the number of visitors during the busy times of year. Frequently in the spring when there are many bird watchers and birding tours present in the canyon, traffic is heavy and dangerous to pedestrians.



The Forest Service formulated a Draft Environmental Assessment of the Project which was submitted for public comment in August. Over 200 comments were made, with the majority favoring the project. These comments along with their own internal analysis, and assistance from other agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife will enable the Forest Service to develop a Final Environmental Assessment of the project. This is expected to be available early next year.

During the construction of the project there will be minor disruption to the canyon, and that will not occur during the nesting season. There will be very little removal of plants as this project will be in a fairly open area of the canyon.