



Peaceful Chiricahua Skies

ACTION ALERT

Contact: Peaceful Chiricahua Skies, <peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com>, 520-369-3503

March 4, 2022 - Comment deadline for proposal to expand Military Training Flights over the Chiricahua-Peloncillo Mountain region

A newly proposed expansion of Military Operations Areas (MOAs) would significantly lower jet aircraft flight altitudes and dramatically increase noise levels in the “Tombstone MOA” over eastern Cochise County, the Chiricahua Mountains and New Mexico bootheel (map available on web site).

- Fighter aircraft would be permitted to fly dozens of daily missions as low as 100 feet above ground level, barely above tree-top height.
- The proposal would also authorize supersonic-speed flights generating sonic booms at 5,000 feet above ground level, many at night. Such extreme noise levels can affect human well-being, disrupt livestock, reduce tourism and damage homes.
- For perspective, if viewed from the San Simon Valley floor (approx. 4,200-ft. elevation), proposed flight altitudes would be the equivalent of seeing/hearing supersonic aircraft barely clearing surrounding mountaintop elevations that rise 4-5,000 ft. above the valley floor.
- The MOA would lower the release altitude of flares and chaff down to 2,000 feet above ground level across protected wilderness, iconic and biologically significant lands like Cave Creek Canyon, and private lands in the surrounding valleys. Flares can pose a significant wildfire danger. Chaff releases pollute the air and land.
- A large part of the MOA also covers New Mexico’s bootheel region including air space over protected areas in the Peloncillo Mountains, including Baker Canyon National Wildlife Refuge, Baker Canyon Wilderness Study Area, Whitmore Canyon Wilderness Study Area, San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge, and the Animas Peaks.
- Towns and private areas included within the Tombstone MOA include Portal, AZ; Rodeo, NM; Bisbee, AZ; Douglas, AZ; the Sulphur Springs Valley; and the San Simon and San Bernardino Valleys.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Sign up for email updates on this issue at tinyurl.com/chiricahuaskies
- Attend the public meeting for this project at 5-7 p.m. on February 24 at the Animas High School in Animas, NM.
- View more information and a template of suggested comments provided by Peaceful Chiricahua Skies coalition at www.peacefulchiricahuaskies.com.
- Submit written comments no later than **March 4, 2022** at the project website www.arizonaregionalairspaceeis.com/get-involved-schedule/ or by mailing comments to: Arizona Regional Airspaces, c/o Cardno, 501 Butler Farm Rd. Suite H, Hampton, VA 23666.

Peaceful Chiricahua Skies is a local coalition of organizations, businesses, and individuals in the Chiricahua-Peloncillo and surrounding areas that are opposing expanded military training flights in the Tombstone MOA area.

*For more information, contact us at <peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com> or 520-369-3503
www.peacefulchiricahuaskies.com, @PeacefulChiricahuaSkies on Facebook and Instagram*