



March 4, 2022

U.S. Air Force  
Arizona Regional Airspace EIS  
501 Butler Farm Road, Suite H  
Hampton, VA 23666  
(submitted by web form)

Re: Cochise County, AZ and Hidalgo County, NM businesses and organizations opposing the Tombstone MOA proposal for Expanded Military Training over the Chiricahua and Peloncillo Mountain region

To Whom It May Concern:

We are Cochise County, AZ and Hidalgo County, NM businesses and organizations, as well as other businesses and organizations with interests in this area, that are opposed to the proposed action by the U.S. Air Force to expand its Military Operations Area over the Chiricahua and Peloncillo Mountain region and surrounding private lands and towns in AZ and NM.

This action would include multiple training overflights as low as 100 feet above ground level (AGL) by F-16s, F-35s and A-10s, and many at supersonic sonic-boom-generating speeds as low as 5,000 feet AGL.

The historic Chiricahua Wilderness Area, part of America's first Wilderness Act of 1964, is a national treasure. While we support military preparedness, we strongly believe that the Chiricahua Wilderness is not an appropriate place for military training flights.

According to the National Park Service's sound map, southwest New Mexico is one of the quietest regions in the country. Cochise and Hidalgo Counties are renowned for their relaxed atmosphere, natural beauty, dark skies, and numerous federally-protected areas. Many people are drawn to this area for its exceptionally high quality of life, and wildlands and wildlife critical to maintaining what's left of nature.

The local economy is heavily dependent on tourism. The draw of the birding opportunities available in Cave Creek Canyon, one of the world's most celebrated avian viewing spots, generates millions of dollars in income for local businesses. This trend is expected to grow exponentially in the future.

As business owners and organization managers, we are extremely concerned about the Air Force's proposed action to expand the number of flights and the area in which extreme noise-producing military training operations can occur. This unwelcome intrusion into our quiet, peaceful communities will fundamentally alter our way of life by decreasing tourism and will greatly diminish our income.

Thank you on behalf of the undersigned organizations and businesses. Please keep all of us informed as this proposal moves forward.

Sincerely,

Peaceful Chiricahua Skies, a coalition that includes the following groups:

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