



PO Box 16147, Portal, AZ 85632

peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com

520-369-3503

January 15, 2026

Cochise County Government Offices
Attn.: Development Services and Board of Supervisors
1415 Melody Lane, Building G
Bisbee, AZ 85603
(sent via email)

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to submit comments on the Cochise County Comprehensive Plan draft.

We were interested to see your Circulation Goals & Policies, which included:

- Policy 2: Coordinate with municipal, military, and educational airports to ensure safe, efficient, and integrated aviation services throughout Cochise County.
- Policy 3: Encourage airport improvements that support training, tourism, and business aviation while minimizing impacts on surrounding land uses.
- Policy 4: Work with federal, state, and agency partners, including the FAA, to secure funding for maintenance, upgrades, and expansions that meet county needs.

As such, we wondered if you have weighed in to oppose the recent U.S. Air Force proposal to dramatically increase military combat training in southern Arizona, which would result in flights at 100 feet above ground level, flights with sonic booms as low as 5,000 feet, release of chaff and flares, and other negative consequences for the state of Arizona.

We have written you about this several times, but have not received no response. (Other surrounding counties including Pima and Hidalgo and Catron in NM have responded to oppose this proposal and other militarization going on in our area.)

We believe that this proposal will result in serious safety risks for our county, including serious risk of wildfires, as well as economic damage by harming the ecotourism industry here and decreasing property values.

For more details, see our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Study that were signed on to by 22 organizations and businesses and 4,000 individuals at peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/comments and attached.

We urge you to oppose this Air Force proposal. In addition, this should be addressed in your Plan as it directly affects the policies listed above.

In addition, we are concerned about the Economic Development Goals & Policies, the first of which concerns increased military development in our county.

In our opinion, this is a short-sited goal which will not serve our county residents or businesses well. First and most importantly, the increased militarization of our county presents safety risks as detailed in our comments referenced above. Secondly, the opportunity cost of focusing on military development diverts funds from more sustainable and beneficial areas, such as health, education, housing, clean energy, and new entrepreneurial businesses. In addition, military development is an inefficient resource allocation, as military development has application in a specific government context and does not bring lasting value to economic growth of people to live here, in the way that health, education, or housing does. Further, positioning Cochise County as a primarily military center does not help the county's already damaged public perception. The negative effects of war and militarization are not a positive for our people. We need jobs but not ones that are transient, unsustainable, and focused on destruction.

We ask you to reconsider revising your Economic Development Goals & Policies to deemphasize military and mining and to instead focus on more productive industries, such as those suggested above.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this plan and will look forward to reviewing future drafts.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in purple ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right.

Karen Fasimpaur and Kim Vacariu
Peaceful Chiricahua Skies

enc.