



Flagstaff Biking Organization  
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November 8th, 2013

**Mayor Nabours and Flagstaff City Council**  
211 West Aspen Street  
City Hall Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Honorable Mayor and City Council-

We are writing to ask the Flagstaff City Council provide direction to City Staff to work towards establishing an Intergovernmental Agreement with United States Forest Service Coconino National Forest Flagstaff Ranger District to designate and manage the Schultz “Y” parcel as a trailhead and open space. Additionally we ask that the Council formally seek to support the actions forwarded by the Flagstaff District’s recent Proposed Action for the Mount Elden/Dry Lake Hills Recreation Planning (MEDL).

Flagstaff Biking Organization (FBO) is a group of cyclists who came together to “promote bicycling as a safe and attractive means of transportation and recreation in Northern Arizona.” Our initial project was to put on a Bike to Work Week for our community in May 2002. Building on the success we started to expand our efforts to keep people informed of cycling related issues and galvanize support for better and safer facilities, trails, and trail access. We represent as many as 300 paid members and many, many more cyclists. Please see <http://flagstaffbiking.org/about-fbo/> for more information.

On October 31<sup>st</sup> the Flagstaff District released for a 30-day public comment period a Proposed Action (PA) for recreation planning in the Mount Elden Dry Lake Hills area. According to the PA, *“The purpose and need of the MEDL Recreation Planning project is to respond to resource impacts from increasing and changing demands for trail use and other non-motorized dispersed recreation on National Forest System lands, to provide managed parking and trails that are sustainable, and to improve the safety of visitors within MEDL area. This should result in enhanced recreation opportunities and experience; mitigation of existing impacts to wildlife habitat, archaeological sites, and*

*soil and water resources; and should address community interests and safety.”* Among other actions, the PA calls for improving and consolidating several trailheads.

This planning is the best opportunity for the City and the Forest Service to plan and work together towards the establishment of the Schultz “Y” as a formal trailhead. Our members and we strongly support this action for several reasons:

- 1) The “Y” is ideally located to provide a hub for direct access to the Flagstaff Urban Trail System, Flagstaff Loop Trail, Arizona National Scenic Trail and the entirety of the Mount Elden/Dry Lake Hills and Fort Valley Trail Systems.
- 2) Schultz Creek trailhead is not open year round because of issues with access during snowy months.
- 3) There is not a need for two trailheads in this area, but rather one well managed and adequately sized facility.
- 4) The “Y” is accessible year round because of its location along County maintained roads.
- 5) Establishing the “Y” as a trailhead formally is strongly supported by Flagstaff residents and visitors as was recently demonstrated during the October 28<sup>th</sup> Flagstaff City Council Meeting.

Additionally we urge the City Council to formally support the Mount Elden/Dry Lake Hills Recreation Planning. The last time the Forest Service implemented improvements to trails and recreation in this area was 1987. The demand for recreational opportunities in the Flagstaff area has grown substantially in the past 25 years. This planning is overdue and will help to provide well-managed, low impact opportunities that better satisfy the current needs of recreationists.

Thank you for considering our input, and feel free to contact us with any questions. For more detail on the Mount Elden/Dry Lake Hill Recreation Planning, see <http://go.usa.gov/WYbA> .

Sincerely-

*s/Anthony Quintile*

For the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization