



Flagstaff Biking Organization  
PO Box 23851  
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Dear Representative Kirkpatrick-

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 have a successful and ongoing 14+ year relationship with the Coconino National Forest, Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff, including a Memorandum of Understanding to work cooperatively to provide for non-motorized trails opportunities in the Flagstaff area. Please see <http://www.flagstaffbiking.org> for more information on our organization.

We are writing in support of the proposed Walnut Canyon National Conservation Area. Local community organizer Ralph Baierlein has recently submitted draft legislation to your legislative assistant, Ken Montoya.

The protection of this area from future development has been well vetted by local stakeholders and governments. The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 authorized funding for a study of the various resources in the area and their suitability for protection. Both the Flagstaff City Council and the Coconino County Board of Supervisors have passed resolutions supporting the use of Congressional designation, such as a National Conservation Area, to permanently address the threat of encroaching development to this area.

Flagstaff Biking Organization strongly supports this proposed legislation and other efforts in the Flagstaff area to protect trails and open space in the wildlands-urban interface. These easily reached opportunities are vital to maintaining the high quality of life that is valued by the citizens of our community. The lands in this proposed legislation are home to sections of the Flagstaff Loop Trail, the Arizona National Scenic Trail, the Campbell Mesa Trail System and the Flagstaff Urban Trail System. These routes are extremely important to the members of Flagstaff Biking Organization and other cyclists in our community whose interests we represent.

It is important to us that this area be protected from development, but that it keeps the current management structure in place. We support continued management by the US Forest Service under the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act under this new National Conservation Area designation as the best strategy to simultaneously protect the landscape and access for recreational use.

Please introduce this proposed legislation to Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely-

*s/Anthony Quintile*

For the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization, Flag Velo, Inc.