

January 28th, 2015



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trails@flagstaffbiking.org

Francisca Adrian
Red Rock Recreation Trails Lead
Red Rock Ranger District
PO Box 20429
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Sent via electronic mail to fcadrian@fs.fed.us

Dear Ms. Adrian-

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Western Trails Proposed Plan.

Background

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 13+ 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.

Many of our members recreate in Sedona. Sedona is recognized as one of the most popular mountain bike destinations in the world. The relatively close proximity of Sedona makes it an extremely popular recreation destination with mountain bikers in the Flagstaff area. Our members will be directly affected by the results of this analysis and its subsequent implementation. Please consider our comments as generally representative of our 200 + paid members’ concerns.

We would like to express our support for, and belief that, well-managed trail systems are one of the best tools available for mitigating the environmental and social impacts inherent in recreational use. Failure to provide for this demand will only lead to dispersing illegal and/or unmanaged use. Unmanaged use has immeasurably greater impacts on resources, as there is nothing preventing this use from impacting soils, wildlife, archaeology or any of the other myriad resource concerns on public lands. Although proper law enforcement should play a part in any recreation management strategy, enforcement alone cannot be successful without appropriate opportunities for recreational users.

Strong support for this Proposal!

We wholeheartedly support this proposal! Since Sedona is so highly visited, it is necessary to provide a sufficient quantity and quality of trails to address this demand. We have been really excited by the additions and improvements to the Sedona area trail system over the past several years, and this proposal continues that direction.

As we have previously stated in [our comments](#) on the Coconino National Forest Land Management Plan Revision:

“Over the past decade, the Sedona area has emerged as a worldwide destination for mountain biking. Recent high-profile press presence for the Sedona area trails in Bike Magazine, Mountain Bike, and other popular mountain bike enthusiast magazines highlight the fact the Sedona area is popular, and growing in popularity, with the mountain bike community. The consequences of this popularity have been thrust somewhat upon the Red Rock District of the Coconino NF. We recognize the diverse, if not divergent, demands placed upon this exceedingly popular area create significant management challenges.

We stress that mountain biking is an important and valid activity upon the Sedona/Oak Creek Management Areas and that it requires management direction and support in order to facilitate responsible use.”

We are extremely pleased to see that the Red Rock District has worked diligently to sustainably address this demand, and continues to do so through this proposal.

Support for the Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition’s specific recommendations

We understand that the VVCC worked directly with the Red Rock District’s recreation staff on formulating many aspects of this proposal. We support their recommendations as the area’s mountain bike trail experts.

Specifically we would like to echo their recommendation to use this opportunity to provide a purpose-built trail as the alignment for the Cliffrose Trail rather than relying upon old road beds for this alignment. Road-to-trail conversion presents an array of maintenance issues over time, and usually fails to provide the best recreational experience, when compared to single track trail designed for recreational use.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions regarding this input. Please include us on any further action on this proposal via email, trails@flagstaffbiking.org.

s/Anthony Quintile

Anthony Quintile, for the Board of Flagstaff Biking Organization
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