



Flagstaff Biking Organization
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April 24, 2012

David J. Vincelette, NEPA Planner

USDA Forest Service, North Kaibab Ranger District
PO Box 248/430 South Main St.
Fredonia, AZ 86022

Dear David-

We are writing to express our support for the Rainbow Rim Trail Extension Project.

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 cycling facilities, trails, and trail access. We currently have in excess of 325 paid members and over 1000 on our email list. In addition, we enlist the support of hundreds of volunteers every year to do trail construction and maintenance on the Coconino National Forest. Please see <http://flagstaffbiking.org/about-fbo/> for more information.

The Rainbow Rim Trail is a favorite amongst mountain bikers in the Flagstaff area. The opportunity to ride on a remote rim of the Grand Canyon is a unique experience since the trails in Grand Canyon National Park are closed to bicycles. The opportunities for solitude and exploration on the North Rim provided by this trail are unparalleled. Many riders from this area travel to the North Kaibab to ride this trail as a weekend trip. Our members will most definitely be directly affected by this proposed action.

The most desirable type of mountain bike trail opportunity is a single-track

loop. The fact that this action would work towards creating a complete loop using the existing Rainbow Rim Trail is very exciting to us! As it stands, this trail is ridden as an out-and-back or as a point-to-point utilizing a vehicle shuttle. This addition will add a great deal to this trail experience by working towards affording the opportunity for a complete loop ride.

Given that there are very few other options for single-track mountain biking on the North Kaibab, we feel that this extension is a highly appropriate addition to the District's trail system.

We recommend that during the trail layout process that the District employ all of the best practices as laid out in the current USDA Forest Service manuals and also by the International Mountain Bicycling Association for sustainable trail construction. Utilizing these design parameters will not only lead to a superior recreational experience but will also create a trail that is durable and non-erosive.

We would also like to draw attention to the fact that mountain biking, hiking and horseback riding, the uses that would be appropriate on this trail, are all environmentally low-impact activities that encourage people to get outdoors. We feel that it is vital to the future of sustainable public lands management to provide well managed opportunities for these sorts of endeavors in order to promote the necessity for protection of our public lands. Given the current trends towards indoor electronic recreation in our culture, if we do not provide sufficient opportunities for folks to get out and enjoy the outdoors, we run the risk of losing voter support for the protection of public lands for things other than resource extraction.

It has always been our belief that pro-active management for recreational concerns, specifically trails, is the best way to protect the divergent resources and interests on the Forest while providing for the highest level of user satisfaction. This is better expressed by the U.S. Forest Service's mission of "Protecting the Land and Serving People".

Thank you for your consideration.

s/Anthony Quintile

for Flagstaff Biking Organization Board of Directors

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