



Flagstaff Biking Organization
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October 22, 2010

Sean Murphy, Trails and Wilderness Coordinator

Flagstaff District, Coconino National Forest
5075 N. Highway 89
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Dear Sean-

We are writing to express our support of additional non-motorized trails planning for the Mount Elden and Dry Lake Hills area.

The Dry Lake Hills and Mount Elden area is the most popular area for mountain biking in the greater Flagstaff area. The popularity of mountain biking in the Flagstaff area has grown substantially over the 20 plus years since the last trails planning project in this area. Mountain biking as a sport has diversified in the meantime as well, with a significant increase in demand for more technical downhill-specific routes.

Several National Forests have successfully incorporated downhill mountain bike trails into their trail systems, most notably the Bridger-Teton in Wyoming. Addressing this demand is a key step in managing this use and mitigating, if not eliminating, the proliferation of user-created routes that do not properly address environmental and other resource concerns. This demand will only increase, and in fact already represents a substantial sub-set of mountain bike users.

Gravity driven mountain biking also appeals to younger riders. Similarly to BMX, this segment of cycling has a "cool factor" that drives kids to this healthy lifestyle. Working towards incorporating this type of trail into the local system could be helpful in achieving goals set forth in the Forest Service's "More Kids in the Woods" program.

We fully support the letter being sent by the Flagstaff Gravity Riders, who will be working through our organization's Sponsored Volunteer Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with the Coconino National Forest.

Additionally there is a need to realign and incorporate various existing traditional multiple-use non-motorized routes, system and non-system, in order to provide for desired connectivity, improved user-satisfaction and better sustainability. As examples, we would recommend a realignment of the Lower Brook-bank Trail and the incorporation of various other routes, some of which follow old roadbeds. These routes are currently unsustainable and fail to best address desired user experience, but they do connect trails in a desirable way. Incorporating these basic corridors into the trail system with realignments would improve the sustainability and enjoy ability of these trails while providing for the need for connectivity exhibited by their continued use. It may be appropriate to consider adding some entirely new trails to the system as well.

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, and we look forward to assisting you in whatever way we can.

s/Anthony Quintile

for Flagstaff Biking Organization Board of Directors

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