



Flagstaff Biking Organization
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Kevin Lehto
District Recreation Planner
Flagstaff Ranger District
Coconino National Forest
5075 N Highway 89
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
Comments-southwestern-coconino-flagstaff@fs.fed.us
Sent via electronic mail

Dear Kevin-

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of the Heart and Little Elden Trail Realignments.

Background on Flagstaff Biking Organization

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 that 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 been actively engaged with the Flagstaff District for over 16 years in volunteer trail projects and other activities. Please see <http://flagstaffbiking.org/about-fbo/> for more information.

Please consider our comments as generally representative of our approximately 360 paid supporters' concerns, as we will be directly affected by this action.

We are very excited to see this project move forward!

We have already invested substantial volunteer time in assisting with recommendations for the proposed alignments for these reroutes. To say the least, we wholeheartedly support this effort to make two underutilized routes into sustainable and enjoyable additions to the Mount Elden/Dry Lake Hills

Trail System. As we have stated before, quantitatively and qualitatively addressing recreational trail use need is the best route forward in managing any trail system. These improved routes will provide for de facto additional quantity of high-quality single track that will better serve the region's ever growing demand for trails.

We have only two substantive comments. The Scoping Letter states,

*“Trail realignment would be completed to Forest Service Class 3 specifications **using hand tools**. The project is anticipated to be completed in a phased approach by **volunteers, youth conservation corps, and Forest Service employees**.”*

We suggest including the use of mechanized trail machines as a construction method as appropriate. The Flagstaff District owns both a SWECO and a mini-excavator, two tools that can dramatically increase the ability of trail workers to re-build trails. We understand that there may be locations where these tools are not appropriate because of resource concerns.

Additionally we intend to help raise funds, through donation and grant applications with the cooperation of the Forest Service, to hire professional trail crews to expedite construction and restoration. This is not specifically mentioned with the other crew options in the second sentence above. We want to make sure that this omission would not potentially prevent using professional crews. Please include “professional trail crews” in any final decision.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to being a key community partner in implementing this project with the District over the next few years!

Sincerely,

s/Anthony Quintile

Trail Program Coordinator
Flagstaff Biking Organization