



March 11, 2024

*Via CARA; and Email to: Sara.Hivick@usda.gov*

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Southwestern Regional Forester's Office  
333 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Re: Arizona National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan Comments  
– Request for Public Comment Extension

The Arizona Mining Association (AMA) and Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the U.S. Forest Service's (Service) Arizona National Scenic Trail (Trail) draft Comprehensive Plan Environmental Assessment; and as such, respectfully request the public comment period be extended to include an additional 30 days. Designated a National Scenic Trail in 2009, the Trail is a compilation of existing trails, following Arizona's Copper Corridor, that extend from Utah to Mexico. The Copper Corridor encompasses numerous active and inactive mines, some of which are members of the AMA and ARPA; therefore, the members of both organizations have a significant interest in the rules that impact the management of the Trail.

The AMA is a non-profit corporation comprised of entities engaged in mining and mineral processing in Arizona. The AMA is the unified voice of responsible, sustainable and safe mining in Arizona. Through our advocacy, we help Arizona continue to be a premier location for mining investment in the U.S.

The Arizona Rock Products Association is the oldest mining related trade organization in Arizona and for over 65 years has been providing representation for 60 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement used in nearly every private and public construction project in Arizona.

The AMA & ARPA have always been supportive of the Trail; and has even repeatedly requested of the U.S. Forest Service to be a collaborative partner in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. However, in an effort to conduct a thorough review and provide meaningful input of the



nearly 200-page Comprehensive Plan, the 63-page Environmental Assessment, and the over 200 pages of supporting documents, the AMA and ARPA respectfully request that consideration be given in extending the public comment period.

As always, the AMA and ARPA appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important documents; and looks forward to working with the U.S. Forest Service as this Comprehensive Plan is finalized.

Please contact me with any questions at (602) 989- 3854.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Trussell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Steve Trussell  
Executive Director