

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/16/2020 5:09:14 PM

First name: Erik

Last name: Bevan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Page 26 (REC-DIS-G) 07: There are cases where a motorized or non-motorized trail needs to cross a river. This paragraph needs to be modified to allow for these trails to cross rivers when needed.

Page 28 (REC-DIS-MO-S) 02: The examples of design standards should not be in here. The design standards are subject to change and if changed may require a change to this Plan which is difficult. The standards listed here should not apply in all cases. There are cases where it should be ok to have a trail on a hill top, ridge, cross a riparian area. The 10% surface grade should not be mentioned here. The acceptable surface grade depends on the soil composition. There are sandy areas that may need to be < 10%, and rock grades that can be more than 10%. Many vehicles are capable of climbing or descending a grade of much more than 10%. It will lower the recreation value if the users are unable to find grades > 10%.

Page 29 (REC-DIS-NMO-G) 02: The words "prevent erosion" should be replaced with "minimize erosion". It is impossible to prevent erosion.

Page 30 (REC-DIS-WB-DC & (REC-DIS-WB-G): This section should mention the importance of river access. It has statements that tend to relate to lake access, but I would like to see a reference to river and stream access as well as historical crossing points. Several river crossing on the Verde river have been shut down (near Childs etc.) Shutting these down severely limits the destinations available from the trail system. For example traveling from the Bloody Basin area to Fossil Creek.

General: Erosion is mentioned throughout the document always with the connotation that it should be avoided. I think we need to accept the fact that erosion will happen regardless of management actions. Rain, snow, wind all cause a large amount of erosion and it is not all bad. The Grand Canyon would not exist without erosion. A trail may erode a little faster than it would naturally because of motorized travel. However, the Tonto is eroding naturally and will look a lot different in a few hundred years even everyone is locked out. We need to minimize erosion, but it is impossible to completely avoid erosion. There needs to be a balance between recreational enjoyment of the forest and the attempt to avoid erosion.