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Comments: Coconino National Forest Plan Revision Team

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To Whom it May Concern:

The Beaver Creek Trails Coalition (formerly Montezuma-Rimrock-McGuireville Trails Coalition) has interfaced with forest personnel at the Red Rock Ranger District since 2008. In 2010 we hired, with the consent of the district, a GPS mapper to map many of the social trails in the vicinity of Lake Montezuma and Rimrock. This information was shared with the District. We have held three well-attended community trails days which included information surveys of participants and hosted a Red Rock Ranger District open house meeting for comments on areas of concern by residents. Board member teams have made numerous visits to discuss social trails information on power point slides, maps of potential designated trails, and to discuss how we could proceed with establishing a trail system in the Beaver Creek area. Our feedback was a reply several years ago that Sedona and Cornville would continue to be priorities and that the district did not have the personnel resources needed to consider projects in our area. We have yet to receive any formal feedback on the survey information that was collected by us and the ranger district more recently. We are still awaiting a reply to a formal written request for information that we mailed in May 2013.

BCTC prepared trails goals and objectives for the Beaver Creek Area that are included in Beaver Creek Community Vision 2020 which was approved by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors in 2012. BCTC participated in the writing and map construction of the Verde Valley Trails Plan. This plan has not been formally accepted by Yavapai County at this time, but is currently widely used by Verde Valley organizations for planning purposes.

To date the 21st century plan currently implemented by the Coconino National Forest for the Beaver Creek area is to close access and neglect environmental, recreational, and economic needs of the Coconino National Forest and the adjacent communities of Lake Montezuma, Rimrock and McGuireville. This is not working. The forest land is being damaged through increasing numbers of social trails and the safety and recreational needs of local residents are not being addressed. Recently Beaver Creek Camp Ground was closed to overnight camping without a comment period from the public. This type of action does not help with community relations.

Our organization has a trails plan. We need Coconino National Forest support to help get a safe, marked, multimodal trail system in place. This will benefit both the environmental needs of the surrounding forest, the recreational needs of residents, and be of economic benefit to Yavapai County.

The Beaver Creek area must become a priority for a trail system now. Prohibition and neglect do not work!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

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