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Comments: My husband, Professor Keran O'Brien and I live in the Red Rock Ranger District, in the Village. My husband and I plan to live out our lives here as residents of the greater Sedona Community. We have participated in many public meetings during this process, including recent trails planning.
We ask that extreme use activities, like some Mountain Biking and some illegal motorized ATV use, be moved to designated sections in the Forest Lands that may be able to better withstand this kind of wear and tear. Alternative sites, away from Wilderness and sensitive eco areas, should be considered as remedies for a problem that will not go away. In more than 25 yrs of living here, we have seen that this culture is relentless and will use the public lands, regardless of regulation or permits. So, consider the more robust areas for some extreme use and ask for cooperation and collaboration to maintain the trails overused and worn down by these users.
Also, there is no designated areas for beginner users of mountain bikes. A course in a relatively accessible and sustainable area could prevent accidents on more heavily used trails.
Trail etiquette is not widely known or practiced in the Coconino National Forest. Other National Forests have made headway in this area for heavy multi-use trails. Green Mountain National Forest has signage in place and Stowe, Vermont has a 6 mile long recreation path along rte 100 (that is not in National Forest Lands) but in a very heavily traveled multi-user tourist area in the mountains. It works very well and is well signed with everyone's expectations clear on the signage.Bell Rock Pathway and Little Horse Pathway would greatly benefit from this kind of clear role and etiquette assignment.
Re: Amendment 12 and its inclusion in the plan, we are concerned that some of the language has lost its power and strength. Please consider the detrimental effects of any land trades in this National Treasure. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinions. We hope they will have some impact on this important, living document.
Dorothy and Keran O'Brien