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Comments: Reading this comprehensive plan makes me proud to be an Arizonan and an American. Thank you for developing a thorough and detailed document that establishes administrative objectives, policies, processes, and management guidance for the Arizona Trail. I greatly appreciate the effort that went into this plan, and the coordination among the many stakeholders.

The Arizona Trail is one of the best projects this state and nation has ever supported.

The Arizona Trail has touched so many lives - my family is just one small example. Over the years, my family and I have hiked on many parts of the Trail. My mother and I were both born in Arizona; she grew up experiencing its history from the building of Hoover Dam, where her father worked, to childhood in Phoenix and Tucson, to later teaching and raising our family in the Flagstaff area; then in retirement she led a hiking group in Mesa. Many of the hikes she made and I shared with her were on the Trail; especially Passages such as 17-23, 31-33, 37-38. Favorite sites included Picketpost, the Superstition Wilderness, Walnut Canyon, and of course the Grand Canyon. On the Arizona Trail and others, mom shared her knowledge of Arizona history and nature, inspired an interest in indigenous peoples' history and culture, and taught us the names of the wildflowers and many other plants and trees. Mom is in her 90s now and can no longer hike but has photos and memories of the Trail, that still sustain and uplift her. Just think of all the families and lives who have been able to enjoy the Trail in similar ways! That's why managing and continuing to plan and care for the Trail and the resources around it is so vital to our lives.

Preservation and protection of the mile-wide trail corridor is key to keeping this wonderful project going, and to the identity of Arizona. The trail values safeguard the unique and significant natural, historic, and cultural features of our state. I support the acquisition of State Trust Lands in order to protect the AZNST, to ensure that land uses are compatible with the goals of the Trail, as well as to maintain perpetuity of the Trail.

I would also like to voice my appreciation for the Plan's acknowledgement of and continued protection of the character of the Trail as non-motorized. E-bikes are great for paved roads but they don't belong on the AZNST.

I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this draft Comprehensive Plan.