Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2024 1:38:07 PM First name: Timothy Last name: Buhl Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you very much for recognizing backpackers as an AZT user group. I had the pleasure of riding sections of the AZT last fall as parts of the coconino loop and in 2021 on a southbound trip down the Western Wildlands route. The AZT is an incredible route that provides riders with excellent day use opportunities, is an exceptional stand alone through route and serves as a vital connector for various other routes. Having bikepacked from Canada to southern Ecuador, I can honestly say, riding AZT singletrack through amazing desert scapes right here in my own country is some of our fondest memories. We look forward to looping the AZT with the WWR and are excited to see how this plan improves the experience. Please continue to keep the proposed 1-mile-wide trail planning corridor in the Comprehensive Plan to support the trail experience and protect scenic resources and manage the trail with cyclist in mind. Please consider alternate routes around wilderness that would provide similar AZT character. Thank you very much for creating a Comprehensive Plan, giving us a seat at the table and supporting quiet, human powdered backcountry experiences and travel.