

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2024 5:00:00 AM

First name: Debbie

Last name: Brenchley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thanks for taking the time to write a very comprehensive plan. The Arizona Trail is an amazing resource in our backyards. I have enjoyed many hikes along the trail and hope to do so far into the future. I have also assisted by volunteer for trail maintenance on the trail. It's a great opportunity to give back.

It's very important to protect the resources within the corridor of the trail, but also to encourage the land owners to protect the areas the trail travels through. It would be great to support acquisition of State Trust Lands to help protect the Arizona Trail where applicable.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment on the plan. I am most familiar with Grand Canyon National Park, so most of my comments reflect that knowledge. Please contact a representative of Grand Canyon National Park to ensure the accuracy of any comments.

Pg 56 #4

Grand Canyon National Park's greenway trail is open to e-bikes. The comprehensive plan indicates that typically the trail would be routed away from routes allowing e-bikes. Any changes to the Arizona Trail route in Grand Canyon National Park would have to be approved by the NPS. I am not sure there are many other trail route options that would provide access for hikers, bicyclists, and stock use.

Appendix C, p.114

The section on Grand Canyon National Park is a little confusing. The data from the backcountry permit system and self identified users of the Arizona Trail is not in question. However, technically, the Arizona Trail travels on the South Kaibab and North Kaibab trails in the park. Havasupai Gardens is on the Bright Angel trail and while still in the corridor, it is not technically on the Arizona Trail. Thus less use by AZ trail hikers.

Backcountry permits are required for Bright Angel Campground and Cottonwood Campground within the inner canyon. The North Rim campground requires a backcountry permit uring the winter months when the North Rim is closed to vehicles.

Page 114 states that Bright Angel Campground is 9.9 miles from the rim. That's true if you are hiking the Bright Angel Trail. If you are hiking the Arizona Trail (South Kaibab trail) it is 7 miles.

Bright Angel Campground is 5 miles north of Havasupai Gardens and about 7.2 miles south of Cottonwood Campground. The mileages on your map on page 115 are correct.

Page 116, third paragraph states "Havasupai Gardens is in the trail,". That's not technically correct since the Arizona Trail is on the South Kaibab trail.

The other thing is the use of "corridor" vs. "Inner Gorge" or "Inner Canyon". Managers tend to use the terms interchangeably to describe the backcountry trail corridor that travels from South Rim to North Rim. Just make sure your audience knows what you are talking about.

Thanks again for the plan.