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First name: Evan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Arizona National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan.

Over the years I've made many trips from Southern California to Arizona to spend time on the Arizona Trail both hiking and mountain biking, including a bikepacking through-ride in 2019. I love the scenery, landscapes and terrain the trail takes me to along with the varying challenges it presents. During every season there are parts of the trail that are prime weather-wise.

The Comprehensive plan appears very thorough and well thought out. Thank you for recognizing bikepacking as a specifically identified use for the trail. Bikes are ideally suited for long distance travel on singletrack so having a trail like the Arizona Trail is very important. I ask that you keep bikepacking in mind when managing the trail.

Specifically, one of our greatest needs is singletrack bypasses around Wilderness areas (and other areas that do not allow bikes), that are consistent with the Arizona Trail experience: quality singletrack through scenic backcountry areas.

I also support the 1-mile wide trail planning corridor to protect scenic resources and a backcountry experience. Also, while the trail does pass through some State Trust Lands which have an easement for Arizona Trail use, priority should be placed on acquiring adjacent State Trust Lands since they exist to be sold for development to fund education in Arizona. While that is a worthy cause, residential or commercial development near the Arizona Trail is not at all consistent with the trail's purpose.

Thanks,

Evan Sollberger

San Diego, CA