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Comments: First I want to express how pleased I am at many parts of the Comprehensive Plan document thusfar. It is very thorough in it's description of the trail and the community that is engaged with it.

I have a few points that I feel were missed in the plan, however.

I recommend that consideration be given to access to the trail for those using adaptive mobility devices, particularly in relation to trailheads and signage. While much of the AZT is not designed or appropriate for these devices, it should not be up to the able-bodied community to decide what parts of the trail can or cannot be used with these devices. With technology changing faster than our ability to track it, we should consider that there may be devices which allow those with disabilities equal access to the trail at its access points, regardless of how remote they are.

This can include the width of gates, the inclusion of accessible parking spaces and signage which indicates the overall condition of the trail in a way that helps prepare users of these devices.

On the same theme, future signage for the trail should be created in a more inclusive manner, utilizing not only the dominant languages in the areas the trail crosses (English, Spanish and Indigenous languages such as O'odham and Apache), but also in Braille where reasonable to do so. Those with sensory disabilities are able to enjoy trails to varying degrees with and without assistance. Signage that these individuals can interpret on their own is an important way that they are welcomed to the trail experience and community.

The "Nature" description on page 21 fails to capture the formidable, intimidating and magnificent character of the Arizona Trail. I strongly recommend a revision of this statement with the assistance of those intimately familiar with the trail and skilled at creating a narrative description worthy of this national treasure.

Ten years of organizing volunteer activities on the AZT has lead me to believe firmly that the opportunity to volunteer has value distinct from other purposes of the trail such as recreation. There are elements in the "Purposes" statement which could hint at this, but in my opinion the word "volunteerism" is missing. Volunteerism goes beyond stewardship and opens up new and supportive communities, provides opportunities for increased public health through activity and creates engaging, rewarding occupation for thousands of people each year.

Additionally, I have other comments I'd like to share:

On page 75, the statement "Relatively small, isolated facilities such as trailheads and range fences do not have much impact on scenic quality and some may help protect scenery (for example, trash bins are better than litter, and fences manage cattle in sensitive areas)." is not representative of a universal truth. Overall, the presence of fences in remote and wild areas creates a constructed reminder of human intervention and is counter to the described nature of the trail in other parts of this document. In the rare instance where fencing protects "sensitive areas" from cattle, it still causes negative impacts to the visual resource. While many have come to accept the existence of fences as ubiquitous in the West, we should not assume that it is a permanent or acceptable condition. I recommend that this statement be revised to remove the reference to fences.

"Preserving landscapes is beneficial to other land uses such as ranching, enhances expansive viewsheds that make the State of Arizona well known for its scenery and sustains ecotourism that benefits the State's economy."
- Creating an equivalency between scenery preservation, ecotourism and ranching is problematic. Ranching not only extractive, but is a destructive industry. The introduction of grazing animals has caused more collective harm

to the environment of Arizona than any other - particularly through the introduction of non-native and invasive plants for browse. This is counter to the Desired Condition 5. "Vegetation communities within the AZNST corridor are healthy and resilient." I recommend that the statement be revised to remove reference to ranching.

I applaud including Arizona's dark skies as a vital natural resource and a critical part of the Arizona Trail experience. The impact of light pollution can come from over a hundred miles distance, and recognizing that is a critical first step to planning for a future with less light pollution.

Unless otherwise stated above, I support all comments made by the Arizona Trail Association's response to the plan.