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Comments: I am writing as a user of the AZNST and volunteer with the Arizona Trail Association. Over the past 10 years or so of working with the ATA and working on the AZNST I have come to appreciate several things. One, this trail is an amazing construction and asset to the state of Arizona, its residents and its visitors. Next, it takes an amazing amount of work, support and financing to protect, maintain and develop the trail.

I believe this comprehensive plan will provide guidance to this and future generations of trail stewards. I would like to first thank the Forest Service for the detail and quality of this plan.

As I read through the plan, I could feel an understanding of the trail community in the words and action plans outlined. There is constant reference to sustainability, access, protection of the environment, natural resources and the trail itself, multiple user groups.

I believe an important part of protecting the AZNST is the acquisition of AZ State Trust Lands within the trail corridor. Too many things --- powerlines, roads, development--- can encroach on the trail easily destroying the trail experiences of seeing great vistas, experiencing solitude, connecting with the essence of Arizona. By acquiring State Trust Lands, a buffer can more easily be created and maintained.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this plan.