

To: Whom it may concern

From: Greg Madson

Concerning: The Forebay conservation plan

I feel it important for those making decisions concerning the forebay property to have as many thoughts and ideas as possible at their disposal. The next important item to have is an open mind concerning the thoughts and ideas presented to them.

I want to be clear that I am very supportive of conserving land for the use of the public. I do feel like the single track bike enthusiasts think it is their land that they are losing out if some land is taken out of the conservation easement. It is not their land, it is public land that Payson city residents should benefit from. The percentage of Payson city residents that use those bike trails is very small, therefore I don't feel that they should be the driving force behind the decisions made on what is done with the land. Again I am very supportive of leaving open space, open space for responsible people to use, including adjoining land owners.

I have spent my childhood and my working career in the Forebay area. It was always open space, over a thousand acres of open space. Then the county started forcing landowners to fence off their property so they could stay in the greenbelt. The golf course restricted access to the landowners property. The west side of Gladstan was restricted for entry by a large landowner and the east side was restricted by someone who threatens to take land owners to court who try to access their property through his property. Even though both accesses were considered right of ways on land deeds. So now with fences for livestock and difficult landowners to deal with, most of the adjoining landowners to the forebay property cannot access the land that at one time was open to them. Even the canyon at one time allowed access to their property but now it is blocked off by the forest service.

My one request for the conservation easement is that there be a swath of land taken out on the north end of the forebay property to allow these land owners a glimmer of hope that they can access their property just as the conservation proponents are seeking to always access the forebay property. Payson city is the owner of the land the conservation district in question. One of the landowners was a real contributor of land to Payson city when the Gladstan golf course was being designed. The Shulers donated at least 40 acres of land and traded pieces of land with Payson city to make it much easier to design the golf course. Payson city was going to work with the land owners who traded and donated land for the golf course so they could develop their land down the road. That never happened. One reason is because one council can't bind the hands of the next council to do their job for Payson city. The Shulers were more than fair with Payson city back in then 80s and now I think it is the right thing to do for Payson city to be fair with the present landowners by not shutting them out of their property. Not all of those affected by this conservation proposal were part of the golf course land acquisitions but there are more than just the Shulers that were.

The other thought I have is that if there was development controlled by Payson, east of the forebay conservation area, there could be another couple of hundred acres of open space built in to the development for all to use.

In conclusion, I am against the conservation easement if there is no right of way taken out of the conservation area for future access to adjoining land owner properties.

I also think it would be morally wrong to show the Shulers that much disrespect after all they did for Payson city in the past.

Taking land out of the conservation easement won't hardly affect the overall plan for biker access and use by Payson city residents. But it would show a lot of goodwill and concern for the neighbors of this change in land description.

I have been around when landowners turned their back on promises made to Payson city on the east side of the golf course and it cost the city dearly. I hope Payson city doesn't turn their back on inferences made to others by Payson city officials.

Sincerely, Greg Madson