

Comments From Keep Sedona Beautiful Members: National Scenic Area (NSA) Designation

Verbatim Comments (Edited* for Anonymity) Received as Part of KSB Survey Conducted July 17-27, 2009

*Typographical errors have not been corrected

Aside from the beauty aspects, which are great and deserve to be preserved for now and future generations, it will be a great economic factor for much of Arizona especially Sedona, Northern Arizona and even Phoenix, due to airport usage, car rentals, general visitation expenditures. Sedona already speaks more visitation, and an NSA designation will increase this visitation, hardly a negative factor because the city of Sedona and the lodging groups and others already spend hundreds of thousands to induce visitors to the area.

I just this minute received this survey. I pray that I may have responded in time to be included.
With many thanks

Given that the Sedona area probably should have been preserved as a national park, it is essential that what land is left should be preserved. It is the last of the riparian areas in the state.

Sedona's natural beauty is already a tourist draw, and the pride of those who are lucky enough to live here. The point of the NSA designation should be to preserve and maintain what is here already, without fear of the land being used for other purposes. AS a friend once said, "Sedona should have been made into a national park." That is too late, but it is not too late to save what remains as undeveloped land.

I have commented by seperate letter

Obtaining the NSA designation is perhaps the single most important event to insure the character and quality of life of the greater Sedona area.

Designating the Sedona area as a NSA would preserve the unique natural beauty of the area for generations to come. Otherwise, it would succumb to those who would try to profit personally at the expense of others by capitalizing on the value of this serene and beautiful area.

It has been proven in a great many locations that preserving and promoting the natural environment can produce a robust eco-tourism based economy! Note the popularity of Birding Festivals, hiking, biking, climbing and other outdoor recreation clubs...not to mention inspiration for artists and photographers and beauty-loving tourists by the millions. Why would they come if these lands were developed like so many other places? With tremendous pressure to develop the west, developers, I'm confident, could not imagine a more tempting location than Sedona's surroundings in which to build a sea of homes. Such would be a catastrophic loss to all who who know this place and its remarkable significance to the world.

The natural landscape of this area is irreplaceable. Please see that it is not further invaded by development. In both the short term and in the long run the quality of life and the local economy will be increased by its protection. People travel from all over the world to see such natural beauty.

The need for the NSA legislation is so clear to most residents but businesses, unable to appreciate long term benefits, do not support it. Sedona Chamber spends money every year promoting tourism. With the rebuilding of SR 179 and a NSA designation, tourism is surely going to increase. Commerce would like to be able to expand Sedona beyond the city's boundaries, an NSA would ensure that this does not take place. The dispute lies in our perception of the Sedona of the future. I see it as a unique beautiful city, artistically developed to complement the surrounding scenery, a national treasure. It would be exclusive and expensive, yes. But it would be an inspiring place to visit, and long term a fantastic place to do business.

Rep. Kirkpatrick. I have been a business owner in Sedona for 20 years. It has always been important to me to keep Sedona beautiful. A lot more has happened to Sedona than anyone ever thought was possible already. We have to take the steps to control the where the growth can continue, because no matter what; even with the NSA, Sedona and the Verde Valley will continue to grow. Lets be the sight stewards that will guard the beauty which is a great value, for the future.

I am fully for this designation

Let's get it DONE! Thanks!!

I feel that this is good for Sedona and would help preserve our natural beauty. We need to make sure our lovely area is not damaged by over development.

My wife and I are out of town, out of state, therefore we want to fully support the National Scenic Area designation for the Area around Sedona. We have lived in Sedona for twenty five years and fully support this concept and action.

It is important that Mrs Kirkpatrick honor her campaign commitment to support the NSA. The local Dems will lose credibility and momentum if she does not. Her ability to get votes here will be greatly diminished.

Designation as a National Scenic Area is absolutely ESSENTIAL to protect Sedona's wondrous landscape from further encroachment. Later will be too late!

The NSA is vitally important. While Amendment 12 has protected us in the past, and the same language in the new Forest Plan will be great, Forest Plans are much easier to change than a NSA designation. The NSA designation protects the beauty and uniqueness of Arizona against the vagaries of political changes in Washington!! This designation will be good for the residents of Sedona and our local economy by protecting our tourist industry and the tax dollars the tourists bring. We need to be sure that Ms. Kirkpatrick introduces this legislation ASAP.

I believe that it is in the best interest of everyone (private citizens, business and government agencies) to have the National Forest surrounding Sedona declared a National Scenic Area. I see this as a winner for everyone. Many pro-development people in Sedona seem to feel that the NSA designation will somehow hamper their agenda. These folks are spreading half-truths and misleading information to ensure the legislation does not get introduced. Please do not let these few very vocal people decide what is in the best interest of "all" of Sedona.

The Sedona economy and lifestyle are dependent upon protection of the scenic beauty. We must be stewards of this treasure. Sedona Red Rock National Scenic Area designation should be considered an essential and immediate step to be taken now to preserve the wonder of Sedona.

My husband and I fell in love with the Sedona area the first time we visited in 1994. By 1999 we purchased our home in West Sedona and have had most of our family and many of our friends visit the beauty of our "back yard". We cannot wait until the day we can permanently retire and spend more time in Sedona. The beauty and pristine conditions we have left in the Sedona area must be preserved. Representative Kirkpatrick, please introduce legislation to establish a Sedona-Red Rock National Scenic Area (NSA) designation for our future generations. We most sincerely appreciate your help.

Please do all you can to save our beautiful environment.

Its time to get this done! Its important to all of us. Make it happen!!

This is a one time irreversible chance to protect the natural health of the land and the native species who inhabit it. We are being given an opportunity to be part of preserving it. Let's do what we can to take action for it!

I have travelled to many other beautiful areas that were unplanned or poorly planned, and did not want to stay in the area because so much of the original scenic areas were overbuilt and no longer attractive. I do not want that to happen here.

This is good both for the citizens as well as business. Having a NSA designation would strengthen the Sedona brand and help our tourism business.

I currently live in Gainesville, Florida, having moved to Gainesville 20 years ago. When I moved here, Gainesville was known as "Tree City." It was beautiful, and it still is. But it is not the place it used to be, because uncontrolled development has taken priority over quality of life. The false choice has been made between financial "progress" and comfortable living space. What was, and could be, a place for people to visit and enjoy the natural beauty, had instead become an ordinary city with open space instead of trees, and lovely springs that now are tapped for millions of gallons of bottled drinking water daily. So I am moving to Sedona. Sedona is a progressive town, but it knows how to progress responsibly. The NSA designation will permit Sedona to continue to progress in responsible ways that will promote the economy and promote quality of life for those who live in Sedona and

The only people who oppose the NSA designation are developers who want to exchange lands from outside the area and those they have frightened to believe the designation would lead to unintended consequences.

The most important reason for me to have a National Scenic Area designation is that we cannot continue to depend on Amendment 12 of the Coconino National Forest Plan to protect this area indefinitely from overdevelopment and the trading off of pieces of this beautiful land for profit. U.S. Forest Service plans are amended on a regular basis and all it would take is for a new Forest Supervisor deciding to once again approve land trades to the detriment of this area.

The NSA is required to forever protect the natural beauty of this beautiful area. This one act will forever be Congresswoman Kirkpatrick's signature legislation.

The National Scenic Area should be set in place not to please local constituents but to preserve this area for everybody and all the world. It is needed in large part to protect what should have been protected long ago FROM THE LOCALS and from excessive, uncontrolled use of what used to be the natural areas and natural resources.

Does this only affect the Coconino County areas in Sedona? This is new to me.

This is a necessary step in protecting the great beauty of the area while still keeping it accessible to those who will use it responsibly.

The people against a Sedona NSA designation are a relatively small developer/builder group who could potentially profit from future development of pristine Forest land at the expense of the Sedona brand (serenity, scenic red rock vistas, unspoiled nature, native american spirituality, etc.), a brand that Sedona's amenities-based economy relies on for their livelihood! As one of the major online purveyors of travel, Shermans Travel, wrote in their email, "Top 10 US Scenic Road Trips:" While the city of Sedona's growth may have resulted in a bit of a commercial sprawl, its captivating rock formations still stand guard right outside town on the Red Rock Scenic Byway. It's already "out there" that Sedona has too much infrastructure, but get out of town and you can find "the Sedona you're looking for," ie. where the Forest is. What happens when the Forest starts to get developed? Sedona's economy will fail, but by that time the developers will have made their money and left Sedona.

I strongly support the NSA designation for the following reasons: This significant legislation will help protect and preserve the unique beauty of this area for all to enjoy. It will help to bolster the region's economic base as a tourist destination where residents, organizations, and government agencies work as stewards to assure a balance between the human footprint and the fragile grandeur of nature. As a resident of Sedona, having lived in the Verde Valley for over thirty years, I recognize the fragility of our region in terms of air quality and water needs. This NSA designation is a timely step in the right direction toward protecting the area from land trades. The area cannot sustain metro. style growth. Climate change, our bowl shaped valley, pressing water needs in Prescott and Flagstaff all point in the direction of conservation, sustainable growth and preservation for survival. The NSA designation allows for the long term enjoyment of this inspirational region.

Protecting open public land, whether wilderness or Forest or BLM land is the key to the future of many western towns. Protection of Forest Service in Sedona land will actually help business and the economy. This is an amenities economy, not an extraction or manufacturing one. People come here for the beauty of the land, and in the process spend money that supports our businesses. If land is trade "put into production" a point will be reached where the tourists will cease to come, residents will leave and jobs will be lost. Amendment 12 is only an administrative restraint and can be changed administratively. A National Scenic Area designation will make land trades a permanent federal law, with the only exception being limited trades within the area itself which the Forest Service uses to consolidate inholdings.

How about the land in Yavapai county that surrounds part of Sedona -- is it not included in the Scenic AREA?????

Been working on this for many years, and hope that Kirkpatrick will listen to the citizens of the greater Sedona Area.

NSA designation is important for the Sedona-area. However, it needs to be structured in such a manner that no new layers of costly bureaucracy are generated and it should not infringe on individual citizens property rights.

The Red Rock area under consideration for the National Red Rock Scenic Area is unique. We need to insure that it will not be developed.

Vote for NSA

NSA is necessary to Keep Sedona Beautiful. It is one of the most beautiful places in America and needs to be protected just like the Grand Canyon. it's already overdeveloped. We can't undo it if its gone. No more land trades please. Thank you.

Please support the establishment of a NSA for our area. It will provide the permanent protection we need versus Amendment 12. Thanks you!

This designation should be approved it would make a very positive impact on the Verde Valley.

It's good for our property values, environment, water issues, the wildlife, archaeological sites . . . don't understand why anyone would oppose this wonderful bill.

Rep, Ann Kirkpatrick,

[We] are strongly in favor of a National Scenic Designation for the Sedona area. Way back when I got myself in trouble with some real estate people and those who thought an NSA would impact private land and the

city. Also that it would place another layer of government on the area. We are thrilled that other groups and organizations have picked up the cause and are fighting to bring the NSA to our area. It is something that is needed to help protect this beautiful area. People come here from all over the world for inspiration, to hike, play and stay. We have an obligation to present the wonders of nature for all. Ann, you have an opportunity to be a part of this and we hope you will boldly step forward and present the NSA to your constituents

Additional development around Sedona is not needed and will only diminish the quality of life for all beings living here. With regard to #2, we have no business condoning the position that we are willing to "take" land from the existing forest, which is there for all Americans not just Sedona residents, for city infrastructure needs such as roads or schools. If we cannot manage our city within our city limits then we do without.

One of the major reasons I moved to Sedona was to enjoy its natural beauty and would hate for that beauty to be compromised by a lack of protection. I think that this designation is important not only for marketing purposes, but also for a layer of protection of our wonderful natural heritage.

Good job!!

I strongly support the creation of a National Scenic Area for the public lands around Sedona, Arizona. I have written to Congresswoman Kirkpatrick directly about my support for the NSA. However, I would also support a rider attached to any natural resource-related legislation that she might introduce in Congress that would not allow the exchange of public lands around Sedona to private individuals or companies as has been suggested.

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick, Let's get this done, already! Please, don't wait until after the 2010 elections. The majority in the Greater Sedona area's Yavapai and Coconino Counties has clearly supported this for years and we expect you to, also.

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: I strongly support the NSA designation as proposed for 2 reasons:

1. It is good business. Nobody comes to Sedona to buy a t-shirt....or to eat in our restaurants or stay in our motels. It is the natural beauty and spiritual quality of the area which first attracts people and then they find our the outstanding value of our goods and services. If we fail to preserve our natural treasure, Sedona becomes just another gas stop between Phoenix and Flagstaff.
 2. We who live in Sedona are stewards of one of the most beautiful natural inheritances which the universe ever gave to man. We must preserve it for those who follow us. We cannot allow paradise to be paved over in the name of short sighted profit.
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I feel that it is important to preserve the natural scenic beauty of the area for residents and tourists alike. Speaking from the experience of having lived in Miami Florida all of my early life, I witnessed the development of the beaches to the point that they can no longer be viewed for the most part unless one is a guest in a hotel or the owner of a condominium. Sedona must protect its scenic beauty from those with an agenda of greed.

Passage of NSA designation should be a no-brainer. I do not understand why Rep. Kirkpatrick is dragging her feet on this. The only idiots that would not support this designation would mostly likely be developers and realtors. Due to the national recession/depression, developers and realtors have lost a lot of their power and political clout, so now is the time to aggressively pursue the NSA designation while the opposition is "down and out."

I am writing to Ann separately, but I think the NSA Designation is extremely important for Sedona and I can only see positive things coming out of this. Not only will Ann lose a lot of support if she breaks her campaign promise and decides not to go ahead with the legislation required, but she will lose a lot of the positive publicity emanating from this. The pluses of an NSA Designation are huge. I think most have been explained, but I also feel this will give protection to archeological sites, hundreds of which are located in this area. I still have memories of photographs in the Arizona Republican taken of huge bulldozers clearing such areas around Phoenix so that more development could be built. Are we going to be the next Scottsdale or Tucson? Will we stretch all the way to Cottonwood around 89A? and to Highway 17 around 179?
