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Jim Hubbard
Undersecretary of Agriculture, USDA
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Chris French
Deputy Chief of U.S. Forest Service, USDA
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I am writing in support of appropriating funds to repair and re-pave the Snowbowl Road located within the Coconino National Forest near Flagstaff, Arizona. Snowbowl Rd is a USFS level four road that provides access to the western flank of the San Francisco Peaks. Snowbowl Rd was originally paved in 1990, has deteriorated to a condition such that traveler safety is an increasing concern. Snowbowl Rd is used by tens of thousands of hikers, bicyclists, campers, leaf lookers, and tourists in addition to visitors to the Snowbowl ski area. Snowbowl Road is the only access to the higher elevation recreational sites on the Peaks making the condition of road critical for fire prevention and fuel reduction projects, fire suppression, evacuation route for forest users, and tribal religious ceremonies and plant gathering.

In May 2017, the CNF and the Federal Highway Administration conducted a Road Safety Audit. The conclusion of the audit noted the need for a major reconstruction and paving of the Snowbowl Road.

A 2019 independent engineer's evaluation of the road was commissioned. Included were several short term band aid alternatives and recommendation to re-pave the entire length with an estimated cost of \$9 Million.

Arizona Snowbowl, located at the end of the road, provides an annual economic impact of approximately \$58M to the local economy, over 600 jobs, over 300,000 paid visitors, and another 200,000 forest users and tourists using the road.

As northern Arizona seeks to climb out of the COVID 19 economic downturn, safe and secure travel on Snowbowl Road will play a critical role in the local economic recovery.

Therefore, we request the USDA and USFS secure funding and identify the Snowbowl Road as the project recipient through the budget process or future Covid 19 relief appropriations.

Thank you for your efforts regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

J.R. Murray
Chief Planning Officer
Arizona Snowbowl

cc: Sinema
McSally
O'Halleran
Gosar
Kirkpatrick
Biggs

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