

## CONSERVATION STUDY FORUM

Subject: Request for amendments to the Resource Protection Standards section of the Zoning Ordinance to implement the *Flagstaff Regional Plan 2030*

Dear Mayor and City Council:

The Conservation Study Forum came together during the development of the Regional Plan to offer comments on elements of importance to CSF participants, generally supporting the inclusion of protections for natural resources that make Flagstaff the unique community that it is. During the plan approval process CSF members participated in every Council meeting, speaking where appropriate. CSF was especially interested in preserving Land Use Policy LU 4.2, which is:

Utilize the following as guidance in the development process: Natural Environment Maps, Environmental Planning and Conservation policies, Considerations for Development, Cultural Sensitivity and Historical Preservation Maps, and Community Character policies, while respecting private property rights.

Recently CSF presented a proposal to Council to request that city staff develop a zoning ordinance amendment to add certain features to the Natural Resource Standards section of the Zoning Ordinance, which section currently addresses trees, slopes and floodplains. The CSF proposal is to add rock outcrops, wildlife corridors, springs and seeps, and prairie dogs. The Council approved the request.

At this point, as Council considers the work program for Community Development staff, CSF is asking for a high priority for our request. CSF members, who have worked very closely with CD planning staff over the years, have some level of expertise in wildlife biology, botany, water resources, archeology, astronomy, herpetology, forest management and community planning, and would like to offer that experience to staff in preparing draft ordinance language. CSF believes that the request completely aligns with Council's goal to revise the zoning code to ensure that it is consistent with community goals and the regional plan.

Another resource that CSF is working on on a separate track is protection of viewsheds. CSF understands from staff that in order to address this in a professional manner, developing key viewshed points and sightlines, a consultant would be required, most likely with landscape architecture expertise. CSF would like consideration of inclusion of funds for this consultant in the CD work program.

As always, CSF greatly appreciates the time that CD staff has given to CSF and appreciates Council's goal of implementing the Regional Plan to protect the values that residents cherish.

Sincerely,  
Tish Bogun-Ozmun, Conservation Study Forum