



Cornville Community Association

P.O. Box 1452
Cornville, AZ 86325

November 9, 2022

EMAIL

To: Tim Carter, County School Superintendent TimCarter@yavapaiaz.gov
James Gregory, Supervisor District 2 JamesGregory@yavapaiaz.gov

Re: Broadband Plans in Cornville

Thank you, Mr. Carter, for your enlightening presentation at the Cornville Community Association (CCA) meeting on October 11, 2022. You increased our understanding of the Broadband topic and process; and we look forward to having the opportunity to learn more from Altice when they host public meetings in Cornville before they begin work. CCA does have concerns about construction impacts on the narrow winding Page Springs Road.

I want to highlight the fact that five miles of the road, from Stewart Hill to SR 89A, was adopted by Yavapai County as a Scenic Historic Route on August 17, 2009, to protect its scenic values, historic route integrity, and importance to the settlement of Cornville since the late 1880's. The designation capped many months of research and public involvement by the CCA. A brochure is attached.

A full description of the Yavapai County Scenic and Historic Route Program can be found at www.yavapaiaz.gov under the Public Works Department. The program description includes Criteria/Standards for Access Permits, Land Development, Utilities, and Construction & Maintenance. Basically, the criteria emphasize that any development activities along the road must cause the least damage possible to existing vegetation and visual impact from the roadway.

Construction & Maintenance guidance states: "Construction or maintenance of any type on designated Scenic/Historic routes **is encouraged to be done in a manner that will cause the least disturbance to the visual or historic resources** of the Scenic/Historic route. Construction and maintenance activities are encouraged to **limit the random movement of construction equipment** on and off the roadway as best as possible; **revegetate and/or reseed as appropriate** all construction scars; and coordinate and **conduct maintenance operations to limit impacts to the visual or historic resources.**" *(emphasis added)*

CCA strongly urges close attention to all project design and construction details, **with full consideration of the scenic and historic values of Page Springs Road.** Our residents will appreciate learning about the techniques Altice plans to use to protect them!

Jim Collins, President
Cornville Community Association

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For a time in the late 1950's, it became a part of the main travel route between Phoenix and Flagstaff, while I-17 was being built. It was then that Page Springs Store (later a restaurant) and Casey's Corner Store (now a store & restaurant) were established.



An old schoolhouse, farm structures and gravesites still attest to the road's role in Cornville's history. Today, small farms, pastures and vineyards re-emphasize the area's historic agricultural values.



Families of original settlers still call Cornville home; and the area retains a strong rural sense of place. In the face of growth and the fast pace of today's society, Page Springs Road is a reminder of the days of Sunday drives and big family dinners. Now, the road offers travelers an opportunity to relive those lost times.



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Page Springs Road is a lasting symbol of a pioneer time in a rural place, reflecting the community's history while also providing a passage to the future.



A Word About Public Access

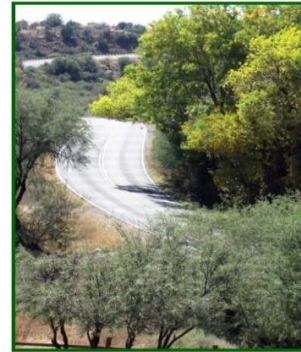
Most properties along Page Springs Road are PRIVATELY OWNED, and public access is NOT available. Access to Oak Creek is available at Page Springs Fish Hatchery, where visitors are welcome.



Cover Photo: Page Springs Road at Stewart Hill.
Photo Credits: Fay Page Mauk & Judy Miller 4-10



Page Springs Scenic/Historic Road



Cornville Historical Society
P.O. Box 1200
Cornville, AZ 86325



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Page Springs Road is named for the artesian springs that attracted James Page and his pioneer neighbors to the banks of Oak Creek in Cornville in the 1870's. The springs run 68 degrees year round and are now part of the Page Springs Fish Hatchery, operated by Arizona Game and Fish Department.



The road follows Oak Creek along the same route it has followed for over 100 years. A five-mile segment of the narrow winding road between Stewart Hill and Old Schoolhouse Road is particularly rich in history. The first homestead was granted to Abraham Kiewe in 1880 along Page Springs Road near Stewart Hill. By the turn of the century, four more nearby settlers had received their federal land patents. The historic Page Ranch, now part of the hatchery, was homesteaded in 1885 by Benjamin Copple and later purchased and expanded by James Page. One stone structure from the old ranch remains at the hatchery.



In the late 1800's, the route was a rough wagon trail, but by the early 1900's, it became a trade route for pioneer farmers who sold produce to miners in Jerome, soldiers at Fort Verde, to markets in Phoenix, and from roadside farm stands at home and as far away as Route 66 near Flagstaff. Irrigation ditches, first developed

in the 1880's, began at springs or as diversions from Oak Creek.

Work Project Administration (WPA) crews improved Page Springs Road during the 1930's; and the bridge was completed in 1936. The road served as a key mail route from the Verde Valley to Sedona and on to Flagstaff during the 1940's and 1950's. The road was officially recognized as a Yavapai County Road by resolutions passed in the 1950's.

