



ARIZONA

STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Arizona State Parks Board

February 20, 2025

John Sefton – Chair

Dale Larsen – Vice Chair,

Jeffrey Buchanan, Robyn Sahid,

Sarah King, Terri Palmberg

AGENDA – A

Call to Order

AGENDA – B

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA – C

Member Roll Call

John Sefton (Chair)

Dale Larsen (Vice-Chair)

Jeffrey Buchanan

Robyn Sahid

Sarah King

Terri Palmberg

AGENDA – C

Mission Statement

“As Board members we are gathered today to be the stewards and voice of the Arizona State Parks and its mission statement to manage and conserve Arizona’s natural, cultural and recreation resources for the benefit of the people, both in our parks and through our partners.”

AGENDA – D1

Approval of Minutes

The Board will review and may consider action to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2025.

AGENDA – D1

Motion:

I move to approve the the meeting minutes from January 16, 2025 as presented.

AGENDA – D2

Consideration of Consent Agenda Items 2(a) through 2(d).

AGENDA – D2

Motion:

*I move to approve the consent agenda
Items 2(a) through 2(d) as presented.*

AGENDA – D2a

2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Application(s)

Arizona State Parks Board will Consider and May Take Action on A Recommendation to Approve, Modify, Or Deny Funding for the submitted 2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application(s).

Presented By: Mickey Rogers (Chief of Grants and Trails)

2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Application(s)				
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff Recommendation	Score
Arizona State Parks	Buckskin Mountain State Park Boat Launch Renovation	\$772,699.00	\$772,699.00	66
TOTAL		\$772,699.00	\$772,699.00	

AGENDA – D2b

2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Amendments

Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action to approve, modify, or deny a proposed Scope Amendment to an approved Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Project.

Presented By: Jeff Schmidt (Program Manager)

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Awarded Projects Amendment Request(s)				
Sponsor	Project	Original Scope	Revised Scope	Staff Recommendation
Arizona State Parks	04-00767 – Dead Horse Amphitheater	Amphitheater	Fish Cleaning Station	Approve Scope Change

AGENDA – D2c

2025 State Lake Improvement Fund Grant Application(s)

Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action to approve, modify, or deny funding for the submitted 2025 State Lake Improvement Fund Grant Application(s).

Presented By: Mickey Rogers (Chief of Grants and Trails)

2025 State Lake Improvement Grant Application(s)				
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff Recommendation	Score
Lake Havasu City	ADA Accessibility Project	\$969,750.00	\$969,750.00	72
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office	Search and Rescue Equipment Purchase	\$341,500.00	\$341,500.00	34
TOTAL		\$1,311,250.00	\$1,311,250.00	

AGENDA – D2d

2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s)

Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action to approve, modify, or deny funding for The Submitted 2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s).

Presented By: Matt Eberhart (State OHV Coordinator)

2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s)					
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff Recommendation	OHVAG Recommendation	Score
Pinal County Sheriff's Office	OHV Range Unit Expansion	\$746,492.00	\$746,492.00	\$746,492.00	43
Arizona Peace Trail	Peace Trail Re-Route Design	\$26,351.00	\$26,351.00	\$26,351.00	24
AZDEMA	Site 4 Fencing	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	17
TOTAL		\$872,843.00	\$872,843.00	\$872,843.00	

AGENDA – D4

Arizona State Parks and Trails Fee Increase

(Presenters:

Kevin Brock, Assistant Director/Chief Financial Officer

Mark Weise, Assistant Director of Operations

Michelle Thompson, Deputy Assistant Director -
Communications)

AGENDA – D3

Arizona State Parks & Trails Fee Increase

- SPRF (State Parks Revenue Fund) receipts have plateaued at approx. \$23.7 million annually
- The agency FY25 operating appropriation is \$19.2 million and the annual Major Maintenance allocation is \$3 million.
- Arizona State Parks receives no General Funds from tax receipts for operations.
- We are proposing a fee increase that will generate approximately \$7 million annually.

AGENDA – D3

- In May 2018, the State Parks Board of Directors approved a range of statewide park fees that was formalized in the Arizona Secretary of State's Administrative Code.
- Fee increases now proposed are within the range approved in the 2018 Administrative Code.
- In general – day use fees would be increased from a range of \$7-\$15 to \$10-\$20, camping from a range of \$15-\$40 to \$25-\$50 (some exceptions).
- Park fees have not been increased across the board for at least 12 years.
- Park operating costs are impacted by general inflation (approx. 40% over the last 12 years), staffing costs, equipment and facility maintenance.

AGENDA – D3

- Statewide park improvements currently underway that will enhance the visitor experience include increased availability for water and electric hookups (30 & 50 amp), park broadband access, ADA improvements in facilities and trails.
- Infrastructure improvements to drinking water, wastewater and water conservation features.

Fee changes not included in the Administrative Code:

- Riordan Mansion Tours – Fees established when the park was operated by the Arizona Historical Society
- Adding a cancellation fee of \$10 (over 45,000 cancellations annually)

AGENDA – D3

Moving Forward with One Annual Pass

- **Discontinuing the \$75 Standard Pass** (restricted access) – continuing with one annual pass at \$200 (unrestricted access to all parks)
- The \$200 annual pass is within the approved price range and will provide unlimited access to all state parks with no restrictions.
- A standard pass (\$75) user who visits a park only once a week is paying just \$1.45 per visit versus the daily entry rate of \$10 per visit.
- A pass holder at the proposed rate of \$200 each who visits a park only once a week is paying just \$3.85 per visit versus the daily entry rate of \$10 per visit.
- A pass holder at the proposed rate of \$200 each who visits a park once a week with a carload of four is paying just \$0.96 per visit per person versus the daily entry rate of \$20 per carload of four per visit.

AGENDA – D3

Park	Current Day Use		New Day Use		Current Camping Fees		New Camping Fees		
	Weekday	Weekend & Holidays	Weekday		Weekend & Holidays	Dry Camping (no hook-up)	(W/E or E only)	Dry Camping (no hook-up)	Camping (W/E or E only)
			Single Car Load	2-4 Person Car Load/ *Per Person					
Fort Verde	7		N/A	10 *					
Jerome	7		N/A	10 *					
Oracle	7		10	20					
Red Rock	7		N/A	10 *					
Riordan Mansion	2		N/A	5*					
Slide Rock	20	30		20	30				
Tombstone	7		N/A	10 *					
Tonto Natural Bridge	7		N/A	10 *					
Alamo	10		10	20		15	25	25	40
Buckskin Mountain	10		10	20		35	40	35	50
Buckskin River Island	10		10	20			30		50
Catalina	7		10	20		25	35	25	50
Cattail Cove	10	15	10	20			35	25	50
Dead Horse Ranch	7		10	20		20	35	25	50
Fool Hollow Lake	7	10	10	20		25	33	25	50
Homolovi	7		10	20		18	30	25	40
Kartchner Caverns	7		10	20			30	20	50
Lake Havasu	15	20	20	20	25		40	25	50
Lost Dutchman	10		10	20		35	35	35	50
Lyman Lake	10		10	20		25	30	25	50
Patagonia Lake	15	20		20	25	25	30	25	50
Picacho Peak	7		10	20		15	30	25	50
Roper Lake	7		10	20		20	30	25	50

AGENDA – D4

Arizona State Parks and Trails Fee Increase

- **Potential Visitor Enhancements**

- Possible extension of hours of operation at day-use parks (e.g. Rockin' River Ranch)
- Increase in park amenities (e.g. shade covers/ramadas, new restrooms, new trails, group camping areas, etc.)
- Increased programming (e.g. guided hikes, interpretive walks, public events, additional Family Campout dates, etc.)
- Increased staff (rangers, law enforcement, etc.)
- Funding for future CIP projects (replacing ~\$50M in infrastructure that has been reverted the last two years)

AGENDA – D4

Arizona State Parks and Trails Fee Increase

- Potential fee increases discussed with Operations leadership (with fiscal, IT and marketing)
 - Asst. Director of Operations, Chief of Operations, (3) Regional Managers
 - Discussed pros/cons for each park and its effect on visitation, operations and staff
- Park manager meetings
- Regional meetings
- New standardized park fee signage for all parks
- Talking points distributed to all park employees

AGENDA – D4

Arizona State Parks and Trails Fee Increase

Cancellation Policy

- 45,495 cancellations equating to \$4,938,381 annually
- Consistent with other state parks (nationally) as well as federal agencies (USFS) and county parks (Maricopa)
- Primary intention is to modify behavior, not receive additional funding

AGENDA – D4

Arizona State Parks and Trails Fee Increase

Cancellation Policy Business Rules

- Changes cannot be made if it exceeds 365 days from original date reservation was made unless change was required by ASPT. After the second change to a reservation any subsequent changes will result in a cancellation/refund and the customer will need to create a new reservation.
- Cancellations prior to 2 p.m. the day before scheduled arrival will be subject to a \$10 cancellation fee. Cancellations after 2 p.m. the day before scheduled arrival will be subject to a \$10 cancellation fee and will forfeit the first night's fees. Single night reservations cancelled after 2 p.m. the day before scheduled arrival will not be subject to a \$10 cancellation fee, all fees will be forfeit.

AGENDA – D4

Communications Plan

- Educate the public about our funding
- 5-Year Visitor Survey and visitor opinion surveys
- Press release (Feb. 6)
 - Interviews - KJZZ, KTAR, Arizona Republic, Arizona Daily Sun, Arizona Daily Star, Today's News-Herald, Arizona News Radio
- Social media and advertising
- Website
- Educate the staff and internal messages

AGENDA – D3

Motion:

I move that the Arizona State Parks Board support statewide fee increases within ranges previously approved by the Board and codified in the Arizona Administrative Code. I also move that the Board approve having one annual pass, adding a \$10 cancellation fee for camping, and adding tour fees at Riordan Mansion ranging from \$12 to \$22 per person.

AGENDA – D4

2024 Social Media Review

(Presenter: Elisabeth Haugan, Communications Coordinator)

AGENDA – D4

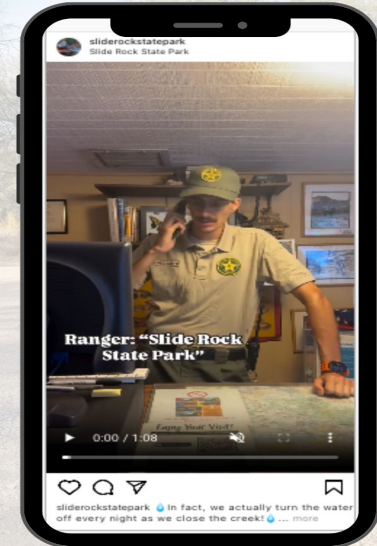
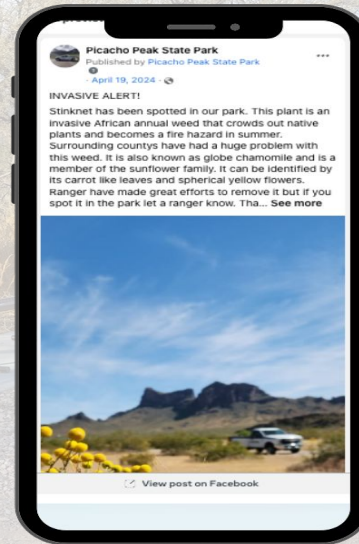
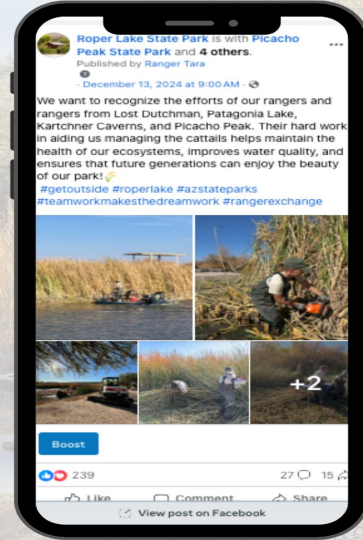
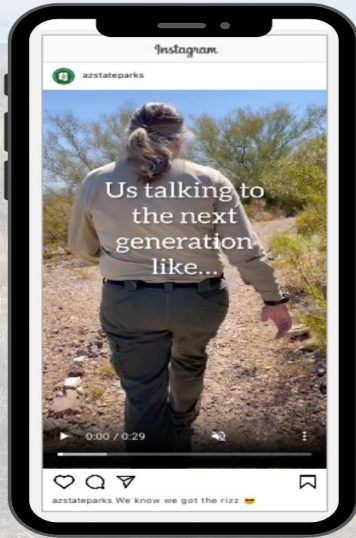
Social Media Group

24 parks/programs | 33 members | 49 accounts



AGENDA – D4

2024 Highlights + Takeaways



AGENDA – D5

2025 Legislative Update (Presenter: Brittany Hudson)

AGENDA – E

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board members may identify items or issues they wish to be considered for inclusion on a future agenda.

AGENDA – F

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS

The Executive Director may present a summary of current events and/or recent experiences of interest to the outdoor recreation community and/or the status of any projects with which they are currently involved. The Board will not discuss or take any action on any current event summary.

AGENDA – F

Lost Dutchman Hike with Earl Hunter



AGENDA – F

Excellence in Government Awards



Town of Randolph



Unity Blaze



AGENDA – F

Arizona Forward Nominations



GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR ARIZONA'S FUTURE

Kids on the Colorado River

Submitted by: Arizona State Parks and
Trails

Screenshot

AGENDA – F

Arizona Forward Nominations



ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Artist in Residence Program
Submitted by: Arizona State Parks and Trails

AGENDA – F

Arizona Forward Nominations



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

Kids on the Colorado River
Submitted by: Arizona State Parks and Trails

AGENDA – F

Fool's Hollow Lake State Park- Champion Tree



AGENDA – G

CURRENT EVENTS

Board members may present a brief summary of current events and/or recent experiences of interest to the outdoor recreation community and/or the status of any projects with which they may be involved. The Board will not discuss or take action on any current events.

AGENDA – H

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

The Chair will recognize those wishing to address the Board.

AGENDA – I

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Arizona State Parks and Trails 2024 Tentative Meeting Schedule

Date	Location
March 20, 2025	Central Office
April 17, 2025	Central Office
May 15, 2025	Central Office
June 19, 2025	Central Office
July 17, 2025	Central Office
August 21, 2025	Central Office
September 18, 2025	Central Office
October 16, 2025	Central Office
November 20, 2025	Central Office
December 18, 2025	Central Office

A scenic view of a lake with a wooden bridge in the background under a blue sky with clouds. The text "THANK YOU!!" is overlaid in large white letters with a dark shadow.

THANK YOU!!