



Bob Broscheid Executive Director



## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

### THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

of

# THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02 notice is hereby given to members of the Arizona State Parks Board ("Board") and the public that the Board will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2025 beginning at 10:00am. Board members may attend the meeting in person or participate telephonically. The public may attend and listen to the meeting at the Oracle State Park located at 3820 Wildlife Drive, Oracle, AZ 85623. Physical access to the meeting place will be fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Members of the public may also listen to the meeting via telephone by calling 1-513-666-3054 and entering the passcode 772 333 169#.

In person or telephonic public comment will be taken. If choosing to speak in person, the speaker will be asked to complete a form which will be made available on the meeting day and submit to staff. If choosing to speak via telephone, persons who wish to make statements to the Board will be asked to identify themselves each time they are speaking. Please ensure phones are muted when not speaking.

This meeting is open to the public; however, the Board may elect to hold an Executive Session for any agenda items at any time during the meeting to discuss or consult with its legal counsel for legal advice on matters listed on this agenda pursuant to A.R.S. \$38-431.03(A)(3). Items on the agenda may be discussed out of order unless they have been specifically noted to be set for a certain time. Public comment will be taken.

## AGENDA

# (The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

# A. CALL TO ORDER

# **B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

# C. MEMBER ROLL CALL AND MISSION STATEMENT

## **D. AGENDA ITEMS**

**1.** Consideration of Action to Approve Minutes of the February 20, 2025, Board Meeting– The Board will review and may consider action to approve the Board meeting minutes from February 20, 2025.

**2.** Consideration of Consent Agenda: Item 2(a) through 2(g) are noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action. Documentation concerning matters on the consent agenda may be reviewed in the Board meeting packet posted at https://azstateparks.com/board and at the

of





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# **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### of

THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

#### of

# THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

## February 20, 2025

Meeting location: Arizona State Parks and Trails, 1110 W Washington St., Suite #100, Phoenix, AZ 85007 Members present: John Sefton, Dale Larsen, Terri Palmberg Members participating telephonically: Robyn Sahid Members absent: Jeff Buchanan and Sarah King ASPT Staff Present: Bob Broscheid, Sarah Rose Webber, Pamela Cason, Mickey Rogers, Woody Gresko, Alec Wilcox, Arizona AG Office: Wesley Gerard, Arizona State Parks Board attorney YouTube live stream: https://youtube.com/live/WNeP-fmSfyQ?feature=share

# A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sefton of the Arizona State Parks Board called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

## **B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Teri Palmberg led Board members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

# C. MEMBER ROLL CALL AND MISSION STATEMENT

Pamela Cason did the role call. All members were present. Chairmen John Sefton read the mission statement.

## D. AGENDA ITEMS

**1. Consideration of Action to Approve Minutes of the January January 16, 2025, Board Meeting-***Member Palmberg motioned to approve the minutes and Vice Chair Larsen seconded the motion to approve the minutes from January 16, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.* 

**2.** Consideration of Consent Agenda: Items 2(a) through 2(d), are noticed as consent agenda items -*Vice Chair Larsen motioned consent agenda items to be approved as presented items 2(a) through 2(d). Member Palmberg seconded the motions. All members approved via roll call vote-motion passed unanimously.* 

Jim Remer with Pinal County Sheriff's office stood to say thank you to the board and grants team.

a. Consideration of Action to Approve Funding for the submitted 2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application(s). (Presenter:





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# **Jeff Schmidt, Grant Program Manager)** The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$772,699.00

2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application(s)					
SponsorProjectProjectStaff RequestSco					
Arizona State Parks Buckskin Mountain State Park Boat Launch Renovation		\$772,699.00	\$772,699.00	66	
ТОТ	<b>FAL</b>	\$772,699.00	\$772,699.00		

b. Consideration of Action to Approve an Amendment to an approved Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Project. (Presenter: Jeff Schmidt, Grant Program Manager). Arizona State Parks Board will review and may provide recommendation(s) on the following proposal to amend the scope of the approved grant.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Scope Amendment				
Sponsor	Project	Scope Item(s) removed	Scope Item(s) added	Staff Recommendation
Arizona State Parks	04-00767 - Dead Horse Amphitheater	Amphitheater	Fish Cleaning Station	Approve Scope Change

c. Consideration of Action to Approve Funding for The Submitted 2025 State Lake Improvement Fund Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Jeff Schmidt, Grant Program Manager) The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$1,311,250.00.

2025 State Lake Improvement Fund Grant Application(s)					
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff	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	
ТС	\$1,311,250.00	\$1,311,250.00			

d. Consideration of Action to Approve Funding for The Submitted 2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Matt Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator) The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$872,843.00.

# 2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s)





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Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff	Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG)	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
ТО	TAL	\$872,843.00	\$872,843.00	\$872,843.00	

**3.** Arizona State Parks & Trails Fee Increase Presentation (Presenters: Kevin Brock, Mark Weise, and Michelle Thompson) The Board will be briefed on the agency's fee increase and may consider action to approve motion to add the additional and changed fees outside the fee schedule in the Administrative Code.

## ASPT Team presented.

Chair Sefton talked about the increased revenue and what a huge help that will be for the park's operation.

Member Palmberg wanted to discuss the proposed cancellation fee. She would like it to be a greater fee. Mark Weise discussed the thought process that went into the cancellation fee discussion. Member Palmberg asked how the cancellation fee would be charged. It was explained that the fee would be withheld when the cancellation of the reservation happened.

Vice Chair Larsen appreciated the presentation. When fees were approved in 2018 there were market analyses completed to see where we stand in comparison to other states around us. He would like to see another market analysis completed as an evaluation. CFO Kevin Brock let him know that we did complete that and that the State of Arizona is in the middle of the ranges. New Mexico is lower, California is much higher, and we are much more in line with the state of Utah. CFO Brock has a summary chart that he is happy to share with the board. As the comments come in from the public, Vice Chair Larsen would like those to be shared with the board. He also agrees with member Palmberg that the cancellation fees should be higher. He also added that we are missing a philanthropy piece where donors can make substantial donations to the agency and parks.

It was discussed that if State Parks has to raise fees in the future it will have to be a rule making change and will be presented and request input from the Board prior to that happening.

Chair Sefton pointed out that every baseball game has dynamic pricing and that





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it is an important money making strategy. It is imperative to develop a fee structure that will be conducive to keeping up with the infrastructure. He asked what the rule making process would look like for future changes. He also stated that by our action today we will initiate the work for staff to take direction to work with the secretary of state office and work to update the administrative code.

Deputy Sarah Webber advised that the Board can amend the motion.

Chair Sefton recommended that the cancellation fee be a minimum of \$10 and a maximum% of the reservation and campsite fee. There was more discussion around different options.

Chair Sefton made a call to the public to ask if anyone has any comments.

Member of the Public Scott Shoemaker from Clarkdale, Arizona made a comment that he felt that the new fees for the annual pass were too high. He feels it will prohibit Arizona residents from being able to afford the new pass.

Chair Sefton asked the board to discuss and craft a motion.

Member Palmberg made the following 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 \$10-100 cancellation fee for camping up to 50% of the total campsite or cabin fee, and adding tour fees at Riordan Mansion ranging from \$12 to \$22 per person"

Chair Sefton said prior to voting on the motion he would like to add that we put a focus on the programs, activities and special days where cost barriers are mitigated and that each of the parks manage accordingly to the calendar and the programming both sticking to that mission of making our resources as available as possible to as many people as possible and mitigating the cost barrier for entry and participation. Member Palmberg supported the addition.

Vice Chair Larsen seconded the motion.

Motion passed by all members approving with an aye vote.

**4. 2024 Social Media Review. (Presenter: Elisabeth Haugan, Communications Coordinator)** This agenda item is for information only.

*Elisabeth presented to the board and showed some examples of different social media posts.* 





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# 5. Legislative Update. (Presenter: Brittany Hudson, Legislative Liaison) The

Board will be briefed on the current legislative bills before the 2025 Arizona State Legislature. This agenda item is for information only.

Brittany presented on current legislation.

Vice Chair Larsen asked about the vacant board positions, any movement on these? Brittany said with the director's confirmation, we are in a waiting period. The governor's office does know that we have the vacancy.

# E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

Vice Chair Larsen wanted to discuss philanthropy. He would like to have a strategy session with the board to get some ideas and maybe the staff could come up with some best practices. He feels like there is a gap and missed opportunities. Chair Sefton agrees if we don't ask, we don't get. With the amazing marketing staff and everything we do to market our parks we have an opportunity to leverage corporate donation dollars.

# 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 may be involved. The Board will not discuss or take any action on any current event summary.

- Unity Blaze Hike
- Governor's Awards of Excellence-DEIA and Town of Randolph
- Federal Funding Freezes
- Lake Havasu Celebrates 60 year Anniversary on Feb 23 with celebration at the park.

Since its establishment in 1965, just 17 months after the founding of Lake Havasu City, the park has become Arizona's most-visited state park, welcoming nearly half a million visitors annually.

- 3 finalist nominations for Arizona Forward (March 8)
- Kids of the Colorado-Governor's Award for Arizona's Future
- Kids of the Colorado-Environmental Education and Communication
- Artist in Residence-Art in Public Places
- We have a champion tree at Fool's Hollow!

# **G. CURRENT EVENTS**

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# action on any current event summary.

Vice Chair asked if the parks were going to have Earth Day events. Michelle Thompson shared that there are several parks doing events. Red Rock always does a big event! Vice Chair Larsen thought it would be a great opportunity to talk about the droughts that the state is experiencing.

Director Broscheid announced the SECC hike in the parks on March 29.

# H. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

The Chair will recognize those wishing to address the Board. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization and the time allotted by the Chair. Action taken because of acknowledgement of comments and suggestions from the public will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

Arizona State Parks Boar	d Tentative 2024 Meeting Schedule
Date	Location
Thursday, March 20, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, April 17, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, May 15, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, July 17, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, August 21, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, September 18, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, November 20, 2025	Central Office
Thursday, December 18, 2025	Central Office

# I. FUTURE MEETING DATES

**J. ADJOURNMENT:** *The meeting adjourned at* \_\_\_*11:37\_\_ am.* 

Arizona State Parks and Trails Office located at 1110 W Washington Street, Suite #100,Phoenix, AZ 85007. The Board may take one vote to act on all the items on the consent agenda or may remove items for further discussion. Items not removed from the consent agenda will be considered in one motion. Items removed for clarification or discussion by the Board will be acted on as appropriate,

a. Consideration of Action to Approve Funding for The Submitted 2026 Recreational Trails Program Non-Motorized Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails.) The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$300,000.00

2026 Recreational Trails Program Non-Motorized Grant Application(s)					
SponsorProjectRequestStaff/ASCOT/AORC C RecommendationScore					
Picacho Peak State Park	Mountain Bike Trail Development	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	33	
Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund	Turkey Creek Trail System	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	18	
ТО	TAL	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00		

 b. Consideration of Action to Approved Funding for The Submitted 2026 Recreational Trails Program Safety and Environmental Education Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails.) The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$9,800.00

2026 Recreational Trails Program Safety and Environmental Education Grant Application(s)					
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff/ASCOT/AORCC Recommendation	Sponsor	
Rim Country Mountain Bike Association	Boulders Area Trail System Signage	\$9,800.00	\$9,800.00	Rim Country Mountain Bike Association	
Т	OTAL	\$9,800.00	\$9,800.00	TOTAL	

c. Consideration of Action Approve Funding for the submitted 2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails.) The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$1,500,000.00.

2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application(s)					
SponsorProjectRequestStaffScore					
Pima County Kelly Ranch Acquisition		\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	55	
ТС	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00			

d. Consideration of Action to Approve a Proposed Scope Amendment to a Board Approved American Rescue Plan (ARPA) HVAC Grant. (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails).

American Rescue Plan Act Heating and Ventilation Cost Amendment					
SponsorProjectOriginal AwardAmended RequestStaff /AORCC Recommendation					
Arizona State Parks	692302-Tombstone Courthouse HVAC Project	\$200,000.00	\$411,600.00	\$411,600.00	

e. Consideration of Action to Approve the Submitted 2025 Supplemental Motorized Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails) 2025 Supplemental Motorized Law Enforcement Grant Application(s)

Sponsor	Project	Project Request	Staff/OHVAG/AORCC Recommendation	
Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department	Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department OHV Program	\$75,765.00	\$75,765.00	
City of Show Low	Show Low Police Department Patrol Expansion	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	
TOTAL		\$175,765.00	\$175,765.00	

f. Consideration of Action to Approve The Submitted 2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails)

2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s)						
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff/OHVAG/AORCC Recommendation	Score		
La Paz County	Bouse OHV Staging Area	\$1,330,000.00	\$1,330,000.00	16		
TO	TOTAL \$1,330,000.00 \$1,330,000.00					

g. Consideration of Action to Approve Funding for The Submitted Heritage Fund Environmental Education Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails)

Heritage Fund Environmental Education Grant Application(s)					
SponsorProjectRequestStaff/OHVAG/AORCC RecommendationScore					
Red Rock State Park	Red Rock Trail Kiosk	\$7,925.00	\$7,925.00	40	
ТОТ	AL	\$7,925.00	\$7,925.00		

**3.** Consideration of Action-The Board will Consider and May Take Action to Appoint Applicants to the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT). (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails.) The Board will review and discuss staff's recommendations to fill two (2) vacancies on ASCOT and may take action to appoint the following individuals to ASCOT.

4. 2025 Earth Day Celebrations. (Presenter: Sarah Rose Webber, Deputy Director)

This agenda item is for information only.

**5. Legislative Update. (Presenter: Brittany Hudson, Legislative Liaison)** The Board will be briefed on the current legislative bills before the 2025 Arizona State Legislature. This agenda item is for information only.

**6. Fee Increase Update**. (Presenter: Kevin Brock, Assistant Director/Chief Financial Officer). This agenda item is for information only.

**7. History of Oracle State Park (Presenter: Sinda Sutton, Park Manager & Staff)** This agenda item is for information only.

# **E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

# F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS

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# H. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

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# I. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Arizona State Parks Board	Tentative 2024 Meeting Schedule
Thursday, December 18, 2025	Central Office

## J. ADJOURNMENT:

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-509 Board member conflict of interest forms are available for public inspection along with a copy of this agenda and any background material provided to Board members at Arizona State Parks and Trails, 1110 W. Washington Street, Suite #100., Phoenix, AZ 85007. For additional information, contact Mickey Rogers at (602) 542-6942. Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Arizona State Parks & Trails does not discriminate based on a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the ADA Coordinator Thomas Beranek at (602) 542-7389; or email tberanek@azstateparks.gov. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. For technical difficulties during the teleconference meeting, please contact Pamela Cason at 480-622-4559 or via email pcason@azstateparks.gov.

Posted at: Arizona State Parks and Trails 1110 West Washington St, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85007

And at: https://azstateparks.com/arizona-state-parks-board

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## 2026 Recreational Trails Program Non-Motorized Grant Application(s)

Sponsor: Picacho Peak State Park Project: Mountain Bike Trail Development Grant Request: \$150,000.00 Match: \$9,104.00



Funding will be used to develop 5 to 7 miles of new trails designed for mountain biking and hiking at Picacho Peak State Park, which will create an easy to moderate rated trail as well as trailhead amenities located at the rarely used Anza Loop picnic area. An accessible restroom facility will be added to the loop as part of this grant request. The trail will then connect to group camping areas, campground, and take visitors through a sea of saguaro Cacti on the parks flatter terrain before circling back to the Anza Loop area. These trails will provide recreational opportunities to a whole new user group of casual and enthusiast mountain bikers, which has been a request of park visitors for a long time. These proposed trails will also create an opportunity for an easier hiking trail option that visitors can directly access from the campground which will be ideal for dog walkers, and families.

#### Sponsor: Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund Project: Turkey Creek Trail System Grant Request: \$150,000.00

Match: \$16,695.00

Total: \$166,695.00



Funding will be used to construct Phase II of the Red Rock Trails Access Plan, which proposes trail enhancements, including adding approximately 31 miles of new non-motorized trails and re-routing and naturalizing other trails, within the Turkey Creek area of the Coconino National Forest. Trail improvements are needed to address social trails and provide for the desired use they indicate while addressing negative natural and cultural resource impacts.



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# **2025 ASPT SUMMARY OF GENERAL LEGISLATION:**

# HB 2223: wind farms; construction; policy; procedures

**Summary:** Establishes requirements to approve, permit, construct and operate a wind farm. Requires the owner of a wind farm to obtain the approval of the state historic preservation office. The state historic preservation office shall issue an approval after review of all potential ground disturbances and proposed mitigations, including an assessment of any adverse effect or impact to cultural properties, national registered historic districts, archaeological sites and unmarked burial sites associated with the proposed wind farm project.

# Update: The bill has not passed out of House, but it is still being amended.

# HB 2275: income tax credit; historic preservation

**Summary:** Requires that the state historic preservation officer receive applications and evaluate and certify the substantial rehabilitation of a certified historic structure for the purpose of income tax credits.

## Update: The bill did not receive a hearing.

# HB 2775: community colleges districts; historic preservation

**Summary:** Currently, the statute does not make provisions for special governing districts- just state agencies. This Bill would add community college governing boards to the list of agencies required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office.

# Update: The bill did not receive a hearing.

# HB 2868: preferential treatment; discrimination; policies

**Summary:** Expands prohibitions on preferential treatment and discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity in public education, spending and hiring practices. Outlines prohibitions for the state or a state agency, a city or town, county, community college district governing board and a state university relating to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Requires the state or a state agency, a city or town, community college district governing board and a state university to adopt policies that appropriately discipline an employee or contractor that engages in conduct that violates the prohibitions relating to DEI.

# Update: This bill passed the House by 32 ayes and 26 nays. Moved to the Senate and passed the Senate Government committee. This bill is still in the process of moving forward.

# HCM 2012: Antiquities Act; exception







**Summary**: Urges the U.S. Congress to enact legislation exempting Arizona from the Antiquities Act.

Update: The bill passed the House 31 ayes and 25 nays and is now moving through the Senate. Passed through the Senate Natural Resource Committee.

# HCR 2011: Arizona state parks heritage fund

**Summary**: Allows for \$10,000,000 to be deposited in the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund from the lottery fund. Exempt from rulemaking for one year.

# Update: The bill did not receive a hearing.

# SB 1024: state agencies; payments; cryptocurrency

**Summary**: Effective January 1, 2026, authorizes a state agency to enter into an agreement with a cryptocurrency service provider to accept cryptocurrency as a payment method for any amount due to the state agency or the state. Allows tax payments to be made in cryptocurrency if the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) enters into an agreement with a cryptocurrency service provider to accept cryptocurrency as a payment method.

# Update: This bill passed out of Senate 17 ayes to 11 nays and is currently moving through the process in the House. Passed the House Commerce Committee.

SB 1237: state employees; remote work; prohibition

Summary: Prohibits full-time state employees from working remotely.

Update: This bill passed out of Senate 17 ayes to 12 nays and is currently moving through the process in the House. Passed the House Regulatory Oversight Committee.

# SB 1243: open meetings; call to public

**Summary**: Requires that if a public body makes an open call to the public, the open call must be made at the beginning of the meeting and before the public body conducts any official business. If an open call to the public at the beginning of the meeting exceeds thirty minutes, the public body may choose to continue the remainder of the open call at a later time during the meeting. If a public body requires individuals to submit a request to speak before addressing the public body during an open call to the public, the public body shall allow individuals to submit requests to speak until the open call to the public has concluded. If a public body posts a meeting agenda





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that only includes an open call to the public, that meeting may not be scheduled before or after another meeting of the same public body.

# Update: This bill passed out of the Senate 17 ayes 12 nays. The bill was assigned to the House Government committee, but did not receive a hearing.

# SB 1256: diversity; equity; inclusion; training; prohibition

**Summary**: Prohibits any state or an agency, board, commission or department of this state from using diversity, equity and inclusion programs for hiring, training or promotion purposes; or requiring an employee to engage in a diversity, equity and inclusion programs; or requiring, as a condition of a contract, participation in a diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

Update: This bill passed through the Senate 17 ayes and 12 nays and is currently moving forward through the process at the House. Passed through the House Government committee.

# SB 1267: veterans; lifetime state park pass

**Summary**: Requires ASPT to give free lifetime park passes to veterans who are currently residents of this state and have been for a year, submits evidence that they are veterans, and passes are also free for their passengers.

Update: This bill was assigned to Senate Government and Appropriations Committees but never received a hearing.

# SB 1278: department of natural resources

**Summary**: Establishes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to oversee the acquisition and management of all non-trust state lands acquired after the bill's enactment, excluding any lands owned by a state university or the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The proposed DNR would have authority over any state permit relating to the extraction of natural resources.

Update: This bill has been passed through the Senate 16 ayes 12 nays. This bill is moving forward in the process at the House. Bill passed House Natural Resources, Energy and Water committee.

# **<u>1285: appropriation; wildfire readiness and response</u></u>**

**Summary**: Appropriates the sum of \$12,500,000 from the state general fund in fiscal year 2025-2026 to the Arizona department of forestry and fire management to award grants and an







amendment was added in committee to appropriate \$250,000 from the state general fund in fiscal year 2026 to the Arizona Trail Fund.

Update: This bill has passed through Senate 25 ayes 2 nays and is moving through the process at the House. Passed through House Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs committee. This bill will be considered in budget negotiations.

# SB 1418: outdoor-based therapy programs; grants

**Summary**: Establishes the outdoor RX program in the department of Health to provide grants for outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural or natural resource-based or outdoor-based therapy programs serving the citizens of this state. Requires the Arizona State Parks Board to establish an advisory committee to assist and advise the department of health services in developing and administering the outdoor RX program.

Update: This bill was assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and Appropriations committees but never received a hearing.

# SB 1517: off-highway vehicles; weight

**Summary**: Allows the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to issue a temporary general use registration, that allows an off-highway vehicle (OHV) to be operated for not more than 30 days, to a person who is a nonresident who owns an OHV titled in another state and otherwise meets OHV requirements. Extends the OHV study committee (study committee) by two years.

Update: This bill passed out of the Senate 17 ayes 12 nays and is moving through the process at the House. Passed through the House Transportation committee.

# SB 1678: state agencies; tribal liaison

**Summary**: Requires all state agencies in this state to employ a tribal liaison from a recognized tribe in this state to represent and facilitate communications between each state agency and tribal communities in this state.

Update: This bill was assigned to the Senate Government committee but never received a hearing.

The Red Rock Trails Access Plan Phase II would construct 21.20 miles of new non-motorized trail; reroute 1.72 miles of National System Trails; adopt 10.21 miles of social trails; and close/naturalize 10.57 miles of social trails. Added trails would be placed on the Coconino National Forest trail system and would be managed as Class 2 or Class 3 trails, per the Forest Service National Trails Classification System. All trails would be constructed by hand and would be managed to maintain a narrow tread with a rugged character and be closed to motorized use. Social trails added to the National Forest System would be modified to meet trail sustainability standards.

# 2026 Recreational Trails Program Safety and Environmental Education Grant Application(s)

Total: \$17,250.00

Sponsor: Rim Country Mountain Bike Association Project: Boulders Area Trail System Signage Grant Request: \$9,800.00 Match: \$7,450.00



The Boulders Area Trail System (BATS) began as a loosely connected network of social trails on Tonto National Forest land directly to the southeast of Payson, AZ. This area has amazing vistas, a variety of natural vegetation, and huge boulders as the name implies. This area has long been utilized by hikers, bikers, and motorized users. One of the main complaints from users in the area is how easy it is to get lost. The proposed signage plan will provide users a safe and informed experience. There are many dead end offshoots that will be rehabilitated so signage will be necessary to help keep users on trail. Also, the entire Boulders Area Trail System area has been recently designated as non-motorized, so signs are needed to help convey that message. All trailhead and junction signs will have the USFS and Payson Area Trails System logos, trail name and info, a trail, and a qr code that links to more information. In total, there are 14 miles of trails that this grant will cover.

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

Sponsor: Pima County Project: Kelly Ranch Acquisition Grant Request: \$1,500,000.00

Match: \$1,500,000.00

Total: \$3,000,000.00



Pima County is requesting funds in order to acquire 97 acres of a 107 acre property, known as Kelly Ranch. The property is located between Oracle Road (SR77) and Catalina State Park, directly east of Oro Valley, north of the Tucson metropolitan area. Catalina State Park, which is a well-loved destination for outdoor recreation, surrounds the property on three sides. The property is a haven for Sonoran Desert plants and wildlife and is adjacent Canada del Oro Wash. The property is mostly undeveloped and includes equestrian facilities, and four previously recorded Hohokam archeological sites. The community has consistently opposed efforts to develop the property. The property was prioritized for acquisition as part of Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and included in a subsequent County 2004 bond election, but the County and owner were unable to reach agreement. Once acquired, the property would be developed for trail use, and wildlife viewing. Pima County also plans to engage Arizona State Parks to coordinate development of the property.

### **Supplemental Motorized Grants**

Sponsor: Pinetop-Lakeside Police DepartmentProject: Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department OHV ProgramRequest Amount: \$75,765.00Match: \$8,418.00

Award Total: \$84,183.00



The Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department with its 16 dedicated sworn officers, have been committed to safeguarding residents and visitors alike. Their mission is clear: to create a safe and secure environment where everyone can fully enjoy and "Celebrate the Seasons," whether at work, play, or home. Pinetop-Lakeside is surrounded by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, boasting over 200 miles of scenic trails and forest roads. The mountains and abundant forest roads make off-highway vehicles (OHVs) a popular mode of transportation for visitors. Equipping the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department with access to an OHV will enhance our ability to educate residents and visitors on safe OHV practices, improve patrol capabilities in the forested areas, and collaborate with our forest service partners. T

#### **Sponsor:** City of Show Low

Project: Show Low Police Department Patrol ExpansionRequest Amount: \$100,000.00Match: \$12,000.00

Award Total: \$112,000.00



This project will be an expansion of SLPD OHV 2023 enforcement project. Funds will be utilized for a new side by side with communication package, lighting, wrap and an education trailer. The request is also for overtime for enforcement and matched with patrol hours. The expansion of this program will

help the City of Show Low increase their points of contact with the OHV community and the greater Show Low area by participating in city sponsored public events, meetings with OHV clubs, and engaging with partners with AZGFD and USFS. Equipment and patrol hours will help to mitigate the following issues that are occurring in and around Show Low including OHV decal violations. distracted divers and education.

#### **Competitive Motorized Grants**

Sponsor: La Paz County Project: Bouse OHV Staging Area Request Amount: \$750,000.00

Match: \$580,000.00

Award Total: \$1,330,000.00



This project will establish a designated OHV staging area which will include restrooms, a camp host station, picnic table ramadas (day use areas), minimum of 25 pull through trailer parking spots, lighting, fencing, curb and gutter, paving and project management. The project is part of a master plan that will be completed in stages with future requests for improvements to the county park including camping, shower facilities and other amenities. The staging area will serve OHV enthusiasts to access the Arizona Peace Trail and other popular riding destinations in Western Arizona. Bouse and its neighboring communities have a significant influx of winter visitors that come to Arizona to enjoy the wide variety of OHV opportunities. This staging area will improve the state's OHV infrastructure and continue to provide quality OHV experiences for the community. The project has 100% design plans.

## Heritage Fund Environmental Education Grant Application(s)

Sponsor: Red Rock State Park Project: Red Rock Trail Kiosk Grant Request: \$7,925.00

Match: \$545.00

**Total:** \$8,470.00



This funding request is to replace an informational trail kiosk at the main trail head at Red Rock State Park. A kiosk previously at this location had to be removed due to wood rot on the support posts. The purpose of the kiosk at this location is to provide important safety information related to the trails in the park, along with important information for park visitors related to the park rules/policies and the park's environmental education and habitat protection mission.