ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS Arizona State Parks Board

June 19, 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."

Approval of Minutes The Board will review and may consider action to approve the meeting minutes from April 17, 2025.



Motion:

I move to approve the the meeting minutes from April 17, 2025 as presented.



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



Motion:

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



2026 Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Application(s)

The Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action on a recommendation to approve, modify, or deny funding for the submitted 2026 LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP).

Presenter: Jeff Schmidt, Program Manager



2026 Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Application(s)

Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff/AORCC Recommendation
Yuma	Carver Park Revitalization	\$1,887,942.00	\$1,887,942.00
Тс	\$1,887,942.00	\$1,887,942.00	



2025 Supplemental Motorized Grant Applications

The Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action on a recommendation to approve, modify, or deny funding for the submitted 2025 Supplemental Motorized Grant Applications.

Presenter: Matt Eberhart, Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator



2025 Supplemental Motorized Grant Application(s)

Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff/OHVAG/AORCC Recommendation
Public Lands Interpretive Association Eastern Santa Rita Mountains Signage \$		\$9,460.00	\$9,460.00
	Totals	\$9,460.00	\$9,460.00



2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s)

The Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action on a recommendation to approve, modify, or deny funding for the submitted 2025 Competitive Motorized Grant application(s).

Presenter: Matt Eberhart, OHV Coordinator



2025 Competitive Motorized Grant Application(s)						
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff/OHVAG/AORCC Recommendation	Score		
Greenlee County Sheriff OHV Law Enforcement and Equipment		\$435,009.00	\$435,009.00	29		
TOTAL		\$435,009.00	\$435,009.00			



OHV Supplemental Cost Increase and Scope Change Amendment

The Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action on a recommendation to approve, modify, or deny a proposed cost increase amendment to an approved Off-Highway Vehicle Supplemental Board approved project.

Presenter: Matt Eberhart, OHV Coordinator



552404 Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Cost Amendment and Scope Change

Original Award	Amendment Increase Request	New Award	Staff/OHVAG/AORCC Recommendation
\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00



Project 552404 Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office OHV Enforcement								
Personnel								
		Total	Match	Grant Reques	st			
Staff/Overtime		\$165,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$150,000.00	New item			
Equipment								
Side By Sides-2		\$ 100,000.00	\$-	\$ 100,000.00				
OHV Trailer-2		\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -				
-	Totals	\$277,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$250,000.0 0				



Motion:

I move that the Arizona State Parks Board approve the proposed budget increase and scope change for project 552404 Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office OHV Enforcement Grant as presented by staff.



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

The Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action on a recommendation to the Arizona State Parks Board to approve, modify, or deny funding for the submitted 2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application(s).

Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails



2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Application(s)							
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff/A0RCC Recommendation	Score			
Town of Chino Valley	Sullivan Canyon Acquisition	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	64			
City of Goodyear	Dog Park Relocation Project	\$1,338,990.00	\$1,338,990.00	55			
	TOTAL	\$1,538,990.00	\$1,538,990.00				



Land and Water Cost Increase Amendment

The Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action on a recommendation to approve, modify, or deny a proposed cost increase amendment to an approved Land and Water Conservation Fund Board approved project.

Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails



04-00790.1 Lake Havasu City Park Development								
Sponsor	Project	Original Award	Amended Increase Request	New Award	Staff/AORCC Recommendation			
Lake Havasu City	City Park Development	\$1,000,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00			



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

Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails



	State Lake Improvement Grant Application(s)						
Sponsor	Project	Request	Staff/AORCC Recommendation	Score			
Arizona State Parks	Buckskin Mountain State Park Boat Ramp Replacement	\$507,200.00	\$507,200.00	76			
City of Yuma	Rescue Watercraft and Equipment Purchase	\$497,285.00	\$497,285.00	76			
Town of Eagar	Safe Water Equipment Acquisition	\$16,998.00	16,998.00	41			
Navajo County	Rescue Watercraft Equipment	\$170,000.00	\$170,000.00	41			
		TOTAL	\$1,191,483.00				



State Parks 2025 Statewide Trails Plan. (Presenters: Dawn Collins, Communications, Research and Marketing/Deb Pryor, CEO, Partners in Brainstorm)





2025 Trails Plan Arizona State Parks Board (ASPB)

June 19, 2025

HIGHLINE A

Highline Trail Improvement Project





2025 Trails Plan

Working Group & ASPB

Working Group

- Dale Larsen, ASPB
- Federal, state, county and municipal land managers/agencies
- Non-profit user groups/trail support/advocates
- Private business representatives
- Universities
- Organizations representing the disability community

Meetings

- June 7, 2023 (AORCC)
- August 29, 2023 (OHVAG)
- October 31, 2023 (ASCOT & OHVAG)
- December 13, 2023 (AORCC)
- January 25, 2024 (SRTAC)
- February 15, 2024 (ASPB)
- May 21, 2024 (ASCOT & OHVAG)
- June 20, 2024 (ASPB)
- September 12, 2024 (AORCC)
- September 24, 2024 (OHVAG)
- November 11, 2024 (OHVAG)
- November 19, 2024 (ASCOT)
- December 4, 2024 (AORCC)
- January 28, 2025 (OHVAG)
- March 25, 2025 (SRTAC)
- May 20, 2025 (OHVAG)
- May 22, 2025 (ASCOT)
- June 11, 2025 (AORCC)

Reviewed & Discussed

- Non-motorized and motorized priorities, expanded questions
- Action team topics
- Survey methodology, launch and progress
- Survey outreach materials (invested user and land manager)
- Mobile location data project
- Data collection success and insights
- Public comment period
- Project timeline and next steps



2025 Trails Plan

What does it do? What doesn't it do?



- Provide a common, data-informed foundation for trail management across agencies and jurisdictions
- Provide guidance and information about Arizonans' participation, priorities, perceptions, experiences and satisfaction on all types of trails
- Continues to "monitor the pulse" of trail related conversations on emerging issues (e.g., e-bikes)
- Inform grant criteria for the federal RTP and state OHV programs

The Plan DOES NOT:

- Set trail management policies for agencies across jurisdictions
- Mandate or prohibit trail uses in the state
- Mandate or prohibit trail uses in parks managed by ASPT



2025 Trails Plan Process



Listening	Planning	Partner Engagement	Public Engagement	Drafting Document	Tribal Consultation	Public Comment	Final Document	Implement Plan
Voice of the Customer	Develop partnerships and contracts; identify stakeholders and working group members; Develop survey materials	Work with partners / working group members to generate list of statewide recreation priorities: Recreation Provider survey	Launch webpage/social media campaign with information / ways to get involved; Survey of Arizona households; Public survey on ASPT website; Press releases; public meetings	Data analysis, drafting document; Drafting implementation plan	Draft document is sent to tribes for consultation	Draft document is available to the public for review / comment	Receive final approvals from Boards and Committees, and any other required sources	Update grant criteria; Integrate plan priorities into operations and decision-making through agency strategic planning initiatives, etc.

2025 Trails Plan - Three Surveyed Groups



5,359 Completed Surveys & Interviews

3,466 Core Non-Motorized Users 1,435 Core Motorized Users

- Stratified Random Sample Survey (SRSS) representative of the state's adult population
- Customer-centric approach-online, mobile devices, computer, phone, etc.
- Available in Spanish and English



5,366 Completed Surveys

- 4,717 Core Non-Motorized Users 1,977 Core Motorized Users
- Outreach from Arizona State Parks and Trails–website, social media, partners, etc., to trail users
- Online/mobile survey same as Arizona Public Survey
- Available in Spanish and English



91 Completed Surveys

- Land managers throughout the state that manage, build, maintain, or plan trails
- Used ASPT email list and partner distribution/share with colleagues, at conferences and meetings, and further extended outreach to address gaps
- Online/mobile survey
- Available in English

Why aren't Arizonans using trails? (n=643, 12% of population)



Reasons for Not Using Trails (AZ Public survey - highest to lowest means)

Extreme temperatures and weather

Don't know where to go for specific activities at my skill level

Too busy with other activities (work or leisure)

Don't have companions to go with

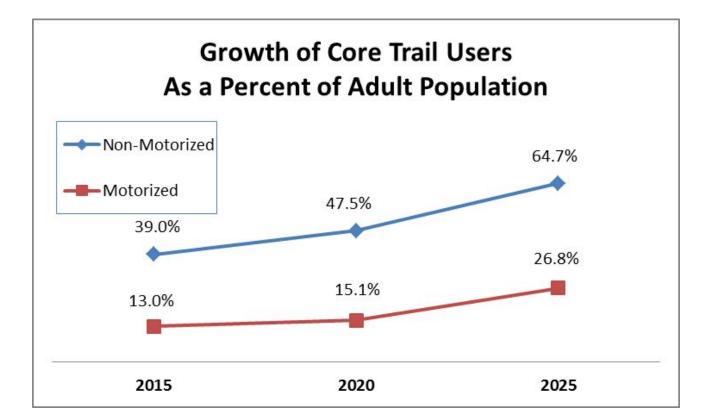
Don't have the equipment

Trails are too far away



How many Arizonans are participating in trail activities?





What non-motorized activities are trail users engaging in?



Participation Rate of Arizona Residents & Non-Motorized Trail Users	Particip	Residents ation Rate 2 Months	Non-Motorized Trail Users Last 12 Months	
Over Last 12 Months	AZ Public N = 5,359	Invested Users N = 5,366	AZ Public N = 3,466	Invested Users N = 4,717
Trail hiking, jogging, or running	62.4%	84.2%	96.5%	95.8%
Viewing wildlife, including birdwatching	51.6%	<mark>69.2%</mark>	79.8%	78.8%
Canoeing, kayaking, or stand-up paddle boarding on a water trail	31.4%	39.4%	48.5%	44.8%
Backpacking	28.8%	34.8%	44.5%	39.6%
Mountain biking	23.6%	32.9%	36.5%	37.4%
Horseback riding	11.7%	16.3%	18.1%	18.5%

What motorized activities are trail users engaging in?

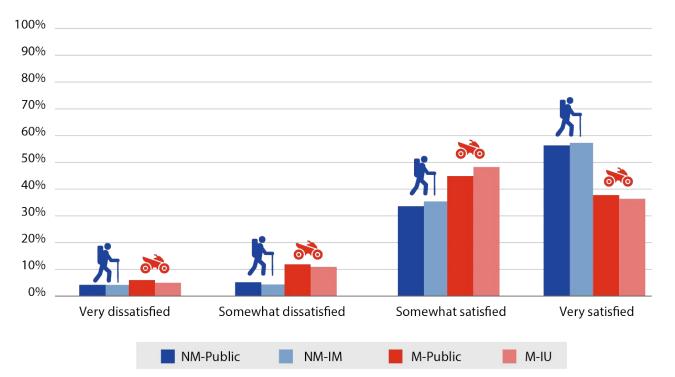


Participation Rate of Arizona Residents & Motorized Trail Users	Participa	Residents tion Rate Months	Motorized Trail User Last 12 Months	
Over Last 12 Months	AZ Public N = 5,359	Invested Users N = 5,366	AZ Public N = 1,435	Invested Users N = 1,977
Driving a 4x4 (e.g., Jeep, 4-wheel drive truck, etc.)	18.7%	26.1%	69.8%	71.0%
Driving a side-by-side	18.2%	20.4%	67.9%	55.3%
Riding a quad /all-terrain vehicle (ATV)	8.3%	11.3%	30.9%	30.6%
Riding a dirt bike	6.2%	8.8%	23.1%	23.9%



Trail Users - Satisfaction

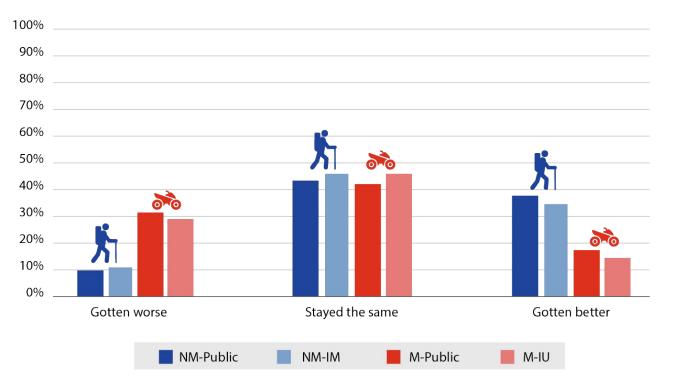
Satisfaction with Trails



Trail Users - Access



Access Over the Last 5 Years



What are the problems on trails? Non-Motorized and Motorized Trail Users & Land Managers

- 1. Litter, trash dumping (m=13.63)
- 2. Erosion of trails (m=12.77)
- 3. Spread of invasive species (m=12.14)
- 4. Poor trail etiquette by other users (m=12.02)
- 5. Changes in climate (m=11.76)
- 6. Unauthorized or irresponsible use (m=11.59)
- 7. Damage to vegetation (m=11.38)
- 8. Damage to historical, cultural, or archaeological sites (m=11.36)
- 9. Lack of enforcement of rules, regulations or laws (m=11.26)
- 10. Vandalism (m=11.20)





2025 Trails Plan Trail Management Priorities **Four Central Themes**



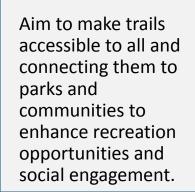
Sustainability and Stewardship

Inspire sustainability and stewardship, preserving Arizona's diverse and cultural landscapes for generations to come.



Education and Engagement

Provide trail users with the knowledge and tools needed to enjoy trails responsibly, ensuring their safety and preserving the natural and cultural landscape.



Access and

Connectivity



Adaptability and Resilience

Recognize the importance of preparing for and adapting to changing environmental and social conditions that impact trail management.

2025 Trails Plan Trail Management Priorities **Sustainability and Stewardship**



Inspire sustainability and stewardship, preserving Arizona's diverse and cultural landscapes for generations to come.

	Priorities	Overall Ranking
Sustainability	Maintain existing trails.	1
and Stewardship	Prevent or repair damage to sensitive environmental and cultural sites near trails.	2
	Design and construct sustainable trails with a focus on connecting trails, parks, and communities.	5 40

2025 Trails Plan Trail Management Priorities Education and Engagement



Provide trail users with the knowledge and tools needed to enjoy trails responsibly, ensuring their safety and preserving the natural and cultural landscape.

	Priorities	Overall Ranking
Education and	Develop signage, maps, and education materials to better inform users, and encourage responsible trail use.	3
Engagement	Promote safe and responsible recreation through education and enforcement.	4
	Create memorable visitor experiences to support trail stewardship.	7

2025 Trails Plan Trail Management Priorities Access and Connectivity



Aim to make trails available to all, expanding accessibility and connecting them to parks and communities to enhance recreation opportunities and social engagement.

Access and Connectivity

Priorities	Ranking
Obtain land for trails and trail access.	6
Provide accessible trails and facilities.	8

2025 Trails Plan Trail Management Priorities Adaptability and Resilience



Recognize the importance of preparing for and adapting to changing environmental and social conditions that impact trail management.

Adaptability		
		D
and		b
Resilience		D.
	_ [

Priorities	Ranking
Develop adaptable trail management plans based on changing conditions and uses.	9
Complete environmental/cultural clearance and compliance.	10

Barriers to Interagency Coordination

To What Extent Barriers to Interagency Coordination	Land Manager			
Affect Agency Scale: 1 = Not a Barrier to 4 = Major Barrier	Total N = 91	Non-Motorized N = 72	Motorized N = 23	
Don't have enough staff or volunteer capacity	3.33	3.35	3.52	
Other priorities, high workload	3.25	3.25	3.39	
Agency staff turnover	2.67	2.58	2.96	
Lack of time to develop and maintain relationships	2.51	2.51	2.65	
Unaware of other agency and organizations plans and projects	2.20	2.10	2.13	
Located in a remote area	2.10	2.08	2.48	
Unfamiliar with potential partners	2.07	1.99	2.26	
Lack of agency support	2.07	1.99	2.22	

Public Comment

A total of 172 public comments were received. Topics included:

- Arizona State Parks and Trails fee increases
- E-bikes on trails
- Maintenance and desired amenities

- Equestrian safety and access
- Communication and education
- Continued and ongoing tribal engagement

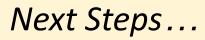




2025 Trails Plan – What's Next?







Deliverables / Activities	Dates	Status
Recommendation to approve by OHVAG	May 20	Approved
Recommendation to approve by ASCOT	May 22	Approved
Recommendation to approve by AORCC	June 11	Approved
Approval by ASPB	June 19	



Questions and Answers



Motion:

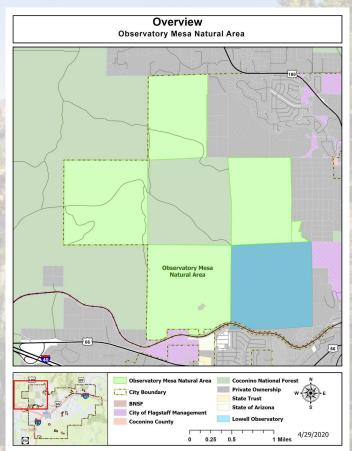
I move that the Arizona State Park Board approve the 2025 Statewide Trails Plan as presented by staff.



- **Growing Smarter Observatory Mesa Proposed New Trail Construction**
- The Arizona State Parks Board will consider and may take action on new trail construction in Observatory Mesa Natural Area.
- (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails



Observatory Mesa





Observatory Mesa

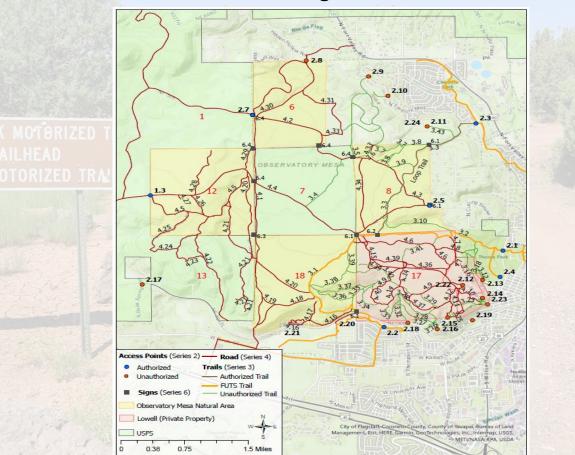


Current Conditions 20-30,000 users/year Broad array of recreation Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing snowshoeing

Minimal access 5.8 miles of formal trail Un-managed recreation and public use (~8 miles of user-created unauthorized trails) 27 miles of existing roads



Existing Trails





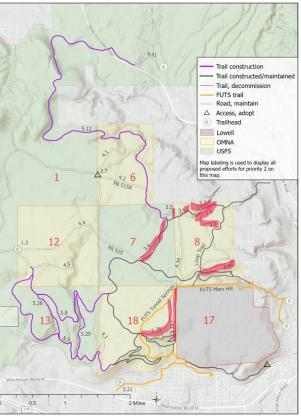
Public Process

2021	2022	2023	2024	2024
Plan Development	1st Public	Stakeholder Engagement	2nd Public Engagement	3rd & Final Engagement
Worked with land management partners	Engagement Online & in-person meeting (~35 ppl)	35 Commissions, organizations & other partners consulted	Online & in-person meeting (~30 ppl)	4 OSC meetings In-person meeting (~115 ppl)



Decommission User Created Trails

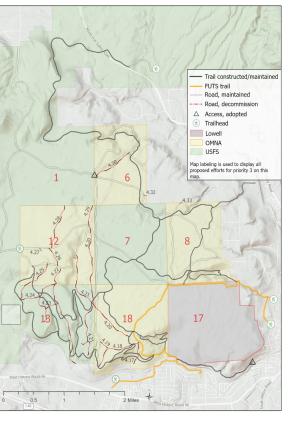




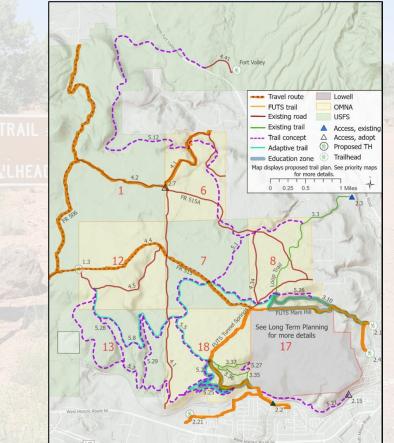


Decommission Several Roads





Final Approved Plan by City Council



MAVERICK MOTORIZED TRAIL PANORAMA TRAILHEAD BLUE RIDGE MOTORIZED TRAILHEA







Motion: I move that the Arizona State Park Board approve proposed new trail construction in the Observatory Mesa Natural Area as presented by staff.



Staff will present a report on the deobligation and reobligation of grant funds for projects under the Recreational Trails Program, including the reobligation of funds for one state park approved project, 472507, Arizona State Park Trails App, originally funded with Recreational Trails Fund at \$324,344.00 now funded at \$356,179.00.

Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails



Project #	Sponsor	Project Title	ORIGINAL AWARD	NEW AWARD
472501	Pinal County	CAP Phase 2	\$99,270.00	\$99.270.00
472502	Oro Valley, Town of	Vistoso Nature Preserve	\$144,500.00	\$144,500.00
472503	Catalina State Park	Catalina State Park Trail Development	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
472504	BLM	Safford/Morenci Trail Maintenance	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
472505	Verde Valley Cyclists	Copper Chief and Quail Springs Trail	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
472506	City of Page	BMX Track	\$149,085.00	\$149,085.00
472507	Arizona State Parks	Trails App Development	\$324,344.00	\$356,179.00
472508	River Island State Park	River Island Trailhead Development Phase II	\$798,517.0	\$798,517.00
472509	Verde Search and Rescue	Search and Rescue Supplies and Equipment	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
472510	Kartchner Caverns Park	Title One School Field Trip Support	\$26,179.00	WITHDRAWN
472511	Arizona Trail Association	Arizona State Map Brochure	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
472512	Verde Valley Wheel Fun	Youth Education Program	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
472513	Cattail Cove State Park	Cattail Cove State Park Trail Signage/Kiosk	\$5,656.00	WITHDRAWN
4725ADP	Arizona State Parks	Admin	\$135,440.00	\$135,440.00



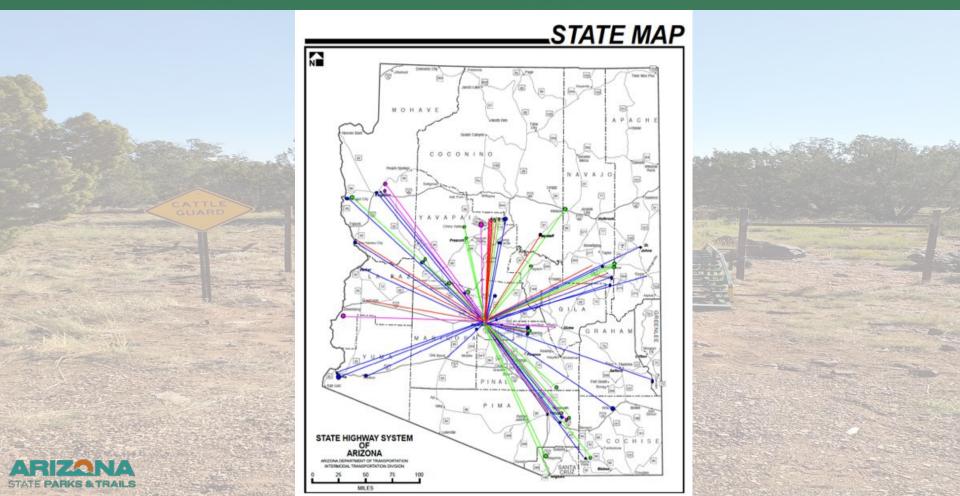
FY 2025 Awarded Grants

Staff will present a final report to the Commission on all awarded grants for Fiscal Year 2025. This agenda item is for information only.

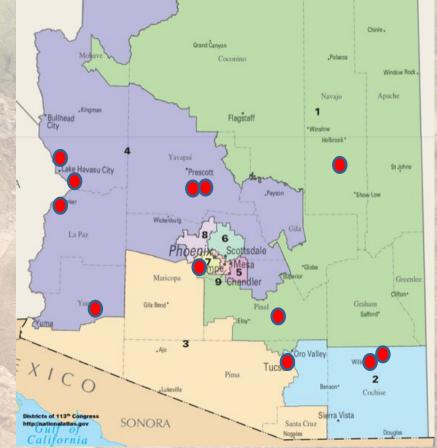
Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails







LAND AND WATER CONSERVATON FUND





STATE LAKE IMPROVEMENT FUND





HERITAGE FUND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM



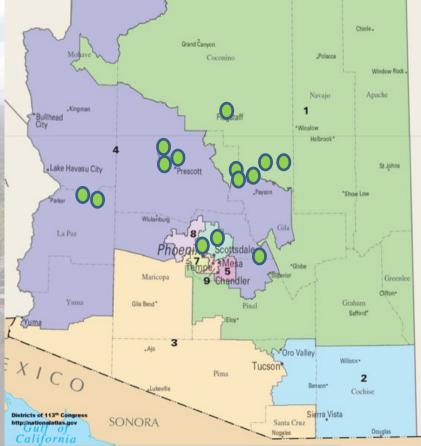


AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT—HVAC PROJECT

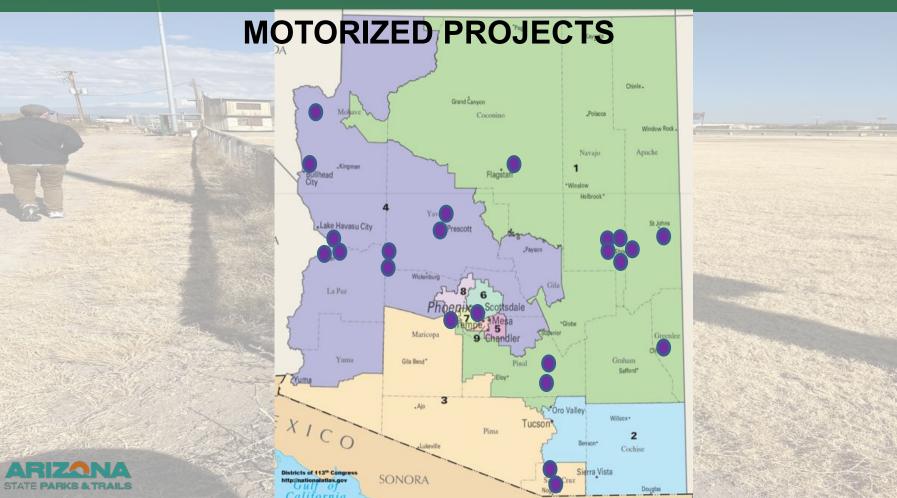




RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM







2025 GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

Program	Award	Match	Total
Motorized (OHV)	\$ 4,477,861.00	\$ 2,018,371.00	\$ 6,496,232.00
Recreational Trails	\$ 1,820,000.00	\$ 844,058.00	\$ 2,378,618.00
Heritage EE	\$ 7,925.00	\$ 793.00	\$ 8,718.00
SLIF	\$ 5,404,438.00	\$ 980,533.00	\$ 6.384,99100
LWCF	\$8,186,982.00	\$8,186,982.00	\$16,373,964.00
ARPA HVAC	\$10,420.00	\$0	\$10,420.00
Totals	\$ 19,907,626.00	\$ 12,030,737.00	\$ 31,398,363.00



2025 Legislative Update

(Presenter: Brittany Hudson)



Introduction of the New Chief of Grants and Trails, Nina Lindsey

The Arizona State Parks Board will be introduced to Nina Lindsey who will be replacing Mickey Rogers, as Chief of Grants and Trails



AGENDA – D9

Recognition and Accomplishments of Mickey Rogers (Presenter: Bob Broscheid)





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

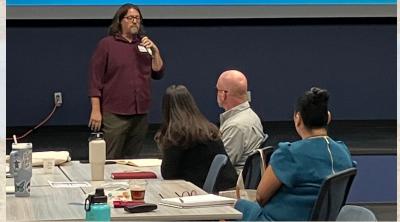
The Executive Director may present a summary of current events and/or recent experiences of interest to the outdoor recreation community and/or the status of any projects with which they are currently involved. The Board will not discuss or take any action on any current event summary.



ACORN meeting June 5 (Arizona Collaborative Outdoor Recreation Network)



Executive Leadership Committee Meeting June 5, 2025







- National Geographic Magazine mentions Family Campout program:<u>https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/how-to-camp-with-your-family</u>
- Tubac Presidio wins Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History for its exhibit "The World at Your Table." <u>https://azstateparks.com/press/tubac-presidio-state-historic-park-and-friends-of-tuba</u> <u>c-presidio-win-award-of-excellence-from-the-american-association-for-state-and-local</u> <u>-history</u>
- Fire response at Oracle (with Catalina serving as headquarters)
- Monsoon season has started and last week was Monsoon Awareness Week promoted on social media. The prediction is for a wetter than usual monsoon season. <u>https://youtu.be/Rpzn5NO8VoA</u>



OHV staging parking area opened at River Island State Park on June 12.



- Employee Engagement survey results
 - 80% participation rate
 - Positive trend in most areas, with the biggest gains in Education/Development, Recognition, and feel connected with the revised mission. We will be able to share more results at the next board meeting.
- Best Companies survey out to employees
- Several employees will be presenting at the August APRA conference
 - Jeff Schmidt-Grants
 - Neil Large-Outdoor Recreation statewide efforts
 - Sarah Webber, Athena Sparks, Dan Roddy, Louis Juers and Sinda Sutton-Interpretive Programing



The 2025 Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor awards: Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park, Tombstone





Preservation Youth Summit held in Arizona with trips to Riordan Mansion State Historic Park and Homolovi State Park



- Second year of the Artist in Residence program being held at Patagonia this fall.
- Three employees selected to attend the Law Enforcement Academy in the fall
 - Kyle Lyngar Park Asst Mgr FOHO,
 - Oscar Sanchez Park Asst Mgr ROLA
 - Noah Atterbury Park Ranger, PIPE
- Great press:
 - Kartchner Caverns and Alamo Lake state parks on Fox 10's Drone Zone;
 - Lake Havasu State Park on ABC 15, which also filmed at Kartchner Caverns (hasn't aired yet);
 - 3TV filmed at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park;
 - KGUN (Tucson) filmed at Patagonia Lake.

It's great to see Phoenix and Tucson news stations willing to travel to the parks to get content.



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 2025 Tentative Meeting Schedule	
Date	Location
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

*Please note there will not be a July board meeting



