



# ARIZONA

## STATE PARKS & TRAILS

### **Arizona State Parks Board**

September 17, 2026

**John Sefton – Chair**

Dale Larsen – Vice Chair

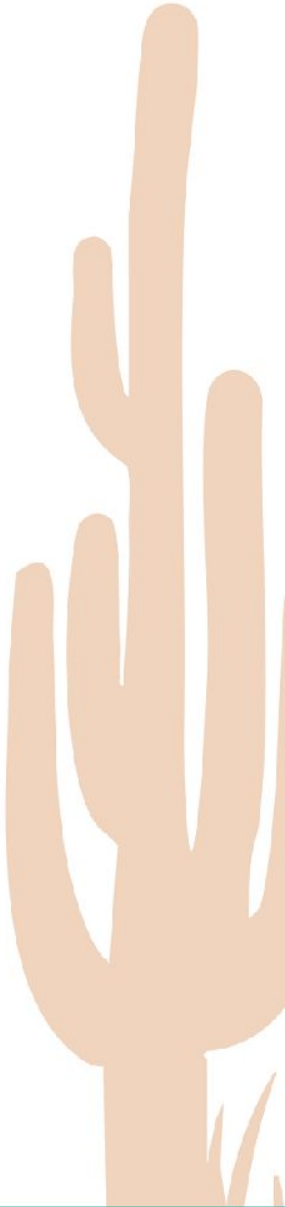
Robyn Sahid, Sarah King,

Terri Palmberg

(2 vacancies)

# AGENDA A

## Call to Order



## AGENDA B

# Pledge of Allegiance



## AGENDA C

### Member Roll Call

John Sefton (Chair)

Dale Larsen (Vice-Chair)

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 connect people to the outdoors and history of Arizona to build a lifetime of memories.”

## AGENDA D-1

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Board will review and may consider action to approve the meeting minutes from June 18, 2026.

## AGENDA D-1

### ***Motion:***

*I move to approve the the meeting minutes from June 18, 2026 as presented.*

## AGENDA-D2

**Consideration of Consent Agenda Items 2(a) through 2(e).**

## AGENDA-D2

*Motion:*

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

# AGENDA-D2a

**The Board Will Consider and May Take Action to Approve, Modify, Or Deny Funding for The Submitted Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund Grant**

**Application(s). (Presenter: Matt Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator)**

The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$980,612.34.

| FY 2026 Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund Grant Application(s) |                                                                              |              |                            |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Sponsor                                                          | Project                                                                      | Request      | Staff/OHVAG Recommendation | Score |
| Wellton Police Department                                        | Wellton Regional OHV Safety, Enforcement, and Resource Protection Initiative | \$338,199.73 | \$338,199.73               | 50    |
| BLM: Arizona Strip Field Office                                  | Arizona Strip OHV Road and Support Facility Maintenance                      | \$467,412.61 | \$467,412.61               | 40    |
| Picacho Peak State Park                                          | Picacho Peak State Park Buckeye Camera System                                | \$75,000.00  | \$75,000.00                | 29    |
| Cottonwood Police Department                                     | Cottonwood Police OHV 2026                                                   | \$100,000.00 | \$100,000.00               | 29    |
| TOTAL                                                            |                                                                              | \$980,612.34 | \$980,612.34               |       |

**The Board Will Consider and May Take Action to Approve, Modify, Or Deny Funding for the submitted Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Matthew Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator).**

The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$2,183,500.00

| 2027 Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund Grant Application(s) |                                               |                       |                       |                       |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Sponsor                                                       | Project                                       | Request               | Staff Recommendation  | OHVAG Recommendation  | Score |
| National Forest Foundation                                    | Wildcat Springs OHV Staging Area Improvements | \$1,500,000.00        | \$1,500,000.00        | \$1,500,000.00        | 71    |
| Prescott Valley Police Department                             | PVPD Trail Patrol OHV Project                 | \$108,500.00          | \$108,500.00          | \$108,500.00          | 38    |
| Sedona Police Department                                      | Sedona Police Law Enforcement OHV             | \$125,000.00          | \$125,000.00          | \$125,000.00          | 36    |
| Coconino County Sheriff's Office                              | OHV Enforcement and Community Engagement      | \$450,000.00          | *\$450,000.00         | **\$550,000.00        | 29    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                  |                                               | <b>\$2,183,500.00</b> | <b>\$2,183,500.00</b> | <b>\$2,283,500.00</b> |       |

*\*OHVAG Recommended to move \$100K from storage facility to a 3rd OHV purchase*

*\*\* AORCC recommended to add \$100K to provide additional 3rd OHV and storage facility*

# AGENDA-D2c

**The Board Will Consider and May Take Action to Approve, Modify, Or Deny Funding for The Submitted 2026 Heritage Fund Local, Regional and State Parks (LRSP) Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Juan Colorado-Alvarez, Planner III)**

The following grant application(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$666,103.00.

| 2026 Heritage Fund Local, Regional, State Park (LRSP) Grant Applications |                                                                     |                     |                      |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Project                                                                  | Sponsor                                                             | Request             | Staff Recommendation | Score |
| Wheel Fun                                                                | Short Creek Valley Bike Skills Park                                 | \$100,000.00        | \$100,000.00         | 73.00 |
| Colorado River Indian Tribes                                             | Ahakhav Tribal Preserve Playground Replacement                      | \$100,000.00        | \$100,000.00         | 72.25 |
| City of Holbrook                                                         | Hunt Park Basketball and Pickleball Court Development               | \$100,000.00        | \$100,000.00         | 57.50 |
| Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area                                     | Outdoor Recreational Lighting at Colorado River State Historic Park | \$100,000.00        | \$0.00               | 57.00 |
| Hualapai Tribe                                                           | Restroom for Peach Springs' Route 66 Park                           | \$100,000.00        | \$0.00               | 55.00 |
| City of Benson                                                           | Lions Park Ramada                                                   | \$72,820.00         | \$0.00               | 46.50 |
| City of San Luis                                                         | San Luis East Community Park                                        | \$93,283.00         | \$0.00               | 45.25 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                             |                                                                     | <b>\$666,103.00</b> | <b>\$300,000.00</b>  |       |

# AGENDA-D2d

**The Board Will Consider and May Take Action to Approve, Modify, Or Deny Funding for the Submitted 2026 Heritage Fund Non-Motorized Trail Grant Application(s). (Presenter: Juan Colorado-Alvarez, Planner III).**

The following grant applications(s) have been submitted for funding totaling \$140,000.00.

| 2026 Heritage Fund Non-Motorized Trail Grant Applications |                                               |                     |                      |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Sponsor                                                   | Project                                       | Request             | Staff Recommendation | Score |
| Wheel Fun                                                 | Short Creek Valley Bike Skills Park Phase I   | \$20,000.00         | \$20,000.00          | 72.25 |
| FE Racing                                                 | New Trail Construction                        | \$20,000.00         | \$20,000.00          | 62.00 |
| Hawes Trail Alliance                                      | Hawes Master Plan Trail Development           | \$20,000.00         | \$20,000.00          | 59.50 |
| City of Benson                                            | Lions Park ADA Trail                          | \$20,000.00         | \$20,000.00          | 58.00 |
| City of Holbrook                                          | McLaws Road to Lewis Park Biking/Walking Path | \$20,000.00         | \$20,000.00          | 54.50 |
| El Grupo Youth Cycling                                    | 100 Acre Bike Park Initiative                 | \$20,000.00         | \$0.00               | 39.50 |
| Town of Eagar                                             | Rumsey Memorial Park Safety Enhancements      | \$20,000.00         | \$0.00               | 29.25 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                              |                                               | <b>\$140,000.00</b> | <b>\$100,000.00</b>  |       |

## AGENDA-D2e

**The Board Will Consider and May Take Action to Approve, Modify, Or Deny Funding to reinstate members to the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT). (Presenter: Alec Wilcox, Grant Administrator)** ASCOT will review and Approve or Deny staff's recommendations to reinstate two (2) members to ASCOT for a second consecutive term.

| Staff Recommendation |                         |      |                              |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| Name                 | Organization            | Term | Term Period                  |
| Shannon Adams        | City of Show Low        | 2nd  | January 2026 - December 2028 |
| James Terlep         | Pima Trails Association | 2nd  | January 2026 - December 2028 |

## AGENDA-D3

### **OHV Ambassador Program Request for Proposal (RFP)**

The Chief of Grants and Trails, Nina Lindsey, will update members on the upcoming RFP for the OHV Ambassador Program administration. The Board will vote on whether to approve the use of Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Funds for the administration of the OHV Ambassador Program.

## AGENDA-D3

- History of OHV Ambassador program
- Ambassador mission/goals
  - Provide a recognizable presence throughout AZ's OHV recreation areas, trails and community
  - Model responsible OHV safety and behavior
  - Promote ethical motorized recreation and land stewardship
- The need exceeds the time staff are able to devote in addition to grant administration duties



## AGENDA-D3

**E. The Arizona state parks board shall spend sixty percent of the monies in the off-highway vehicle recreation fund for the following purposes:**

- 1. No more than twelve percent to fund staff support to plan and administer the off-highway vehicle recreation fund.**
- 2. To establish an off-highway vehicle program based on the priorities established in the off-highway vehicle recreational plan.**
- 3. To designate, construct, maintain, renovate, repair or connect off-highway vehicle routes and trails and to designate, manage and acquire land for access roads, off-highway vehicle recreation facilities and off-highway vehicle use areas. After expenditures pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection, the Arizona state parks board shall not spend more than thirty-five percent of the remaining monies received pursuant to this subsection for construction of new off-highway vehicle trails.**
- 4. For enforcement of off-highway vehicle laws.**
- 5. For off-highway vehicle related informational and environmental education programs, information, signage, maps and responsible use programs.**
- 6. For the mitigation of damages to land, revegetation and the prevention and restoration of damages to natural and cultural resources, including the closure of existing access roads, off-highway vehicle use areas and off-highway vehicle routes and trails.**
- 7. For necessary environmental, historical and cultural clearance or compliance activities.**

## AGENDA-D3

### Contractor Scope of Work

- Onboard at least 100 Ambassadors statewide over the next four years
- Have a consistent, regional presence across the state
- Offer rider training and orientation sessions
- Have EMT certified volunteers posted at trailheads during busy times
- Better social media presence to engage new generations of riders
- Paid advertising in small publications to recruit new volunteers
- Offer up to 24 Show Me Rides per year statewide



## AGENDA-D3

### Motion

*I move to approve the use of OHV grant funds via an RFP for the OHV Ambassador Program as presented by staff.*

## AGENDA-D4

# **OHV Mitigation Grant Working Group Update**

**(Presenter: Nina Lindsey, Chief of Grants and Trails)**

**This agenda item is for informational purposes only.**

## AGENDA-D4



# Mitigation Working Group

- History of mitigation grants at ASPT
- Stakeholder driven restructure of OHV Mitigation grants to ensure that ASPT is responding to emerging needs.
- Delegated Authority of \$250,000 to respond quickly
- Meetings in January and March 2026 with attendees from Forest Service, BLM, law enforcement, trail crews and more.

## AGENDA-D4

| Rank | Description                                                                                 |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Prevention/Partnerships to include how the sponsor intends to prevent damage moving forward |
| 2    | Habitat Areas/Cultural Site Protection                                                      |
| 3    | Impacts to Range/Ranching Operations                                                        |
| 4    | Illegal Off-Roading                                                                         |

# AGENDA-D4

## Next Steps

- Create and release funding opportunity (by October 31, 2026) to accept applications
- Grant Workshop (November 2026)
- Review and score applications (November and December 2026)
- OHVAG, AORCC and Parks Board will be updated quarterly on projects that have been approved to move forward.

## AGENDA-D5

# Off-Highway Vehicle Economic Impact Study Update

**(Presenters: Dr. Dawn Collins, Executive Project Manager, and Dr. Dari Duval, U of A Cooperative Extension Economist)**

**This agenda item is for informational purposes only.**

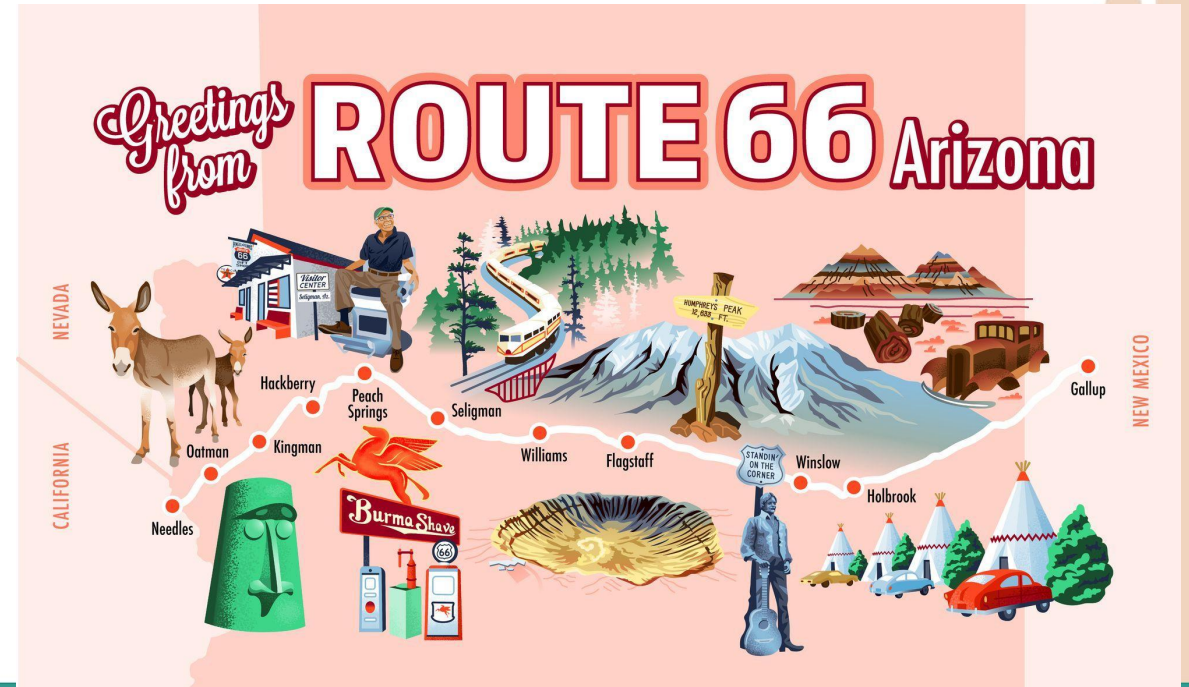
## AGENDA-D6

# **Proposed Route 66 Historic Revitalization Grant Scoring Criteria for the National Park Service-Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant**

**(Presenter: Jessica LaPota, Grants Coordinator,  
State Historic Preservation Office)**

# What is the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant?

- Run through National Park Service
- Sub-grant program for organizations to create a pass-through grant program
- Projects must:
  - be rural (fewer than 50,000 people)
  - focus on historic preservation
  - focus on economic revitalization



# Route 66 Historic Revitalization Grant

SHPO applied for and received this grant in 2025

Focus on tourism along Route 66, working to funnel funds into Route 66 after the centennial passes

Open to nonprofits, government agencies, tribes, *and businesses*

Projects must:

- be between \$10,000 - \$100,000 and must have 20% match

- be related to tourism along Route 66 (historic or current)

- focus on preservation/rehabilitation

- bring economic revitalization to their community

- be on buildings that are listed in or eligible for the National Register

(We cannot fund projects on our own properties)

A banner with a black and white photograph of a historic Route 66 building in the background. The text "ROUTE 66" is in large orange letters, and "HISTORIC REVITALIZATION GRANT" is in smaller teal letters below it.

# ROUTE 66

HISTORIC REVITALIZATION GRANT

## GRANTS WORKSHOP DATES

**October 13 from 6-7 p.m.**

Methodist Church Hall, 101 E Hillview St., Winslow, AZ

**October 14 from 6-7 p.m.**

Stampede, 426 Historic Route 66 Williams, Arizona

**October 15 from 4-5 p.m.**

Powerhouse Visitor Center, 120 W Andy Devine Ave #2, Kingman, AZ

**APPLICATIONS OPEN EARLY OCTOBER**

# Proposed Grant Scoring (approved by NPS)

|                          |                         |           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Project Narrative</b> |                         | <b>30</b> |
|                          | Project Summary         | 10        |
|                          | Project Timeline        | 5         |
|                          | Past Work / Preplanning | 5         |
|                          | Future Work             | 5         |
|                          | Project Team            | 5         |
| <b>Threat/Urgency</b>    |                         | <b>10</b> |

|                                     |                    |           |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| <b>Project Benefit</b>              |                    | <b>25</b> |
|                                     | Preservation Plans | 5         |
|                                     | Public Benefit     | 10        |
|                                     | Building Occupancy | 10        |
| <b>Historic and Economic Impact</b> |                    | <b>20</b> |
|                                     | Historic Impact    | 5         |
|                                     | Economic Impact    | 15        |
| <b>Budget</b>                       |                    | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Letters of Support</b>           |                    | <b>5</b>  |

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100</b> |
|--------------|------------|

## AGENDA-D6

### **Motion**

*I move that the Arizona State Parks Board approve the proposed Route 66 Historic Revitalization Grant scoring criteria as presented by staff.*

## AGENDA-D7

### **Del Rio Springs Property Donation-South Parcel**

**(Presenters: Kevin Brock, Chief Financial Officer  
and Jody Norris, Protection Program Director, The  
Nature Conservancy in AZ)**

## AGENDA-D7

### Del Rio Springs – First Acquisition Recap

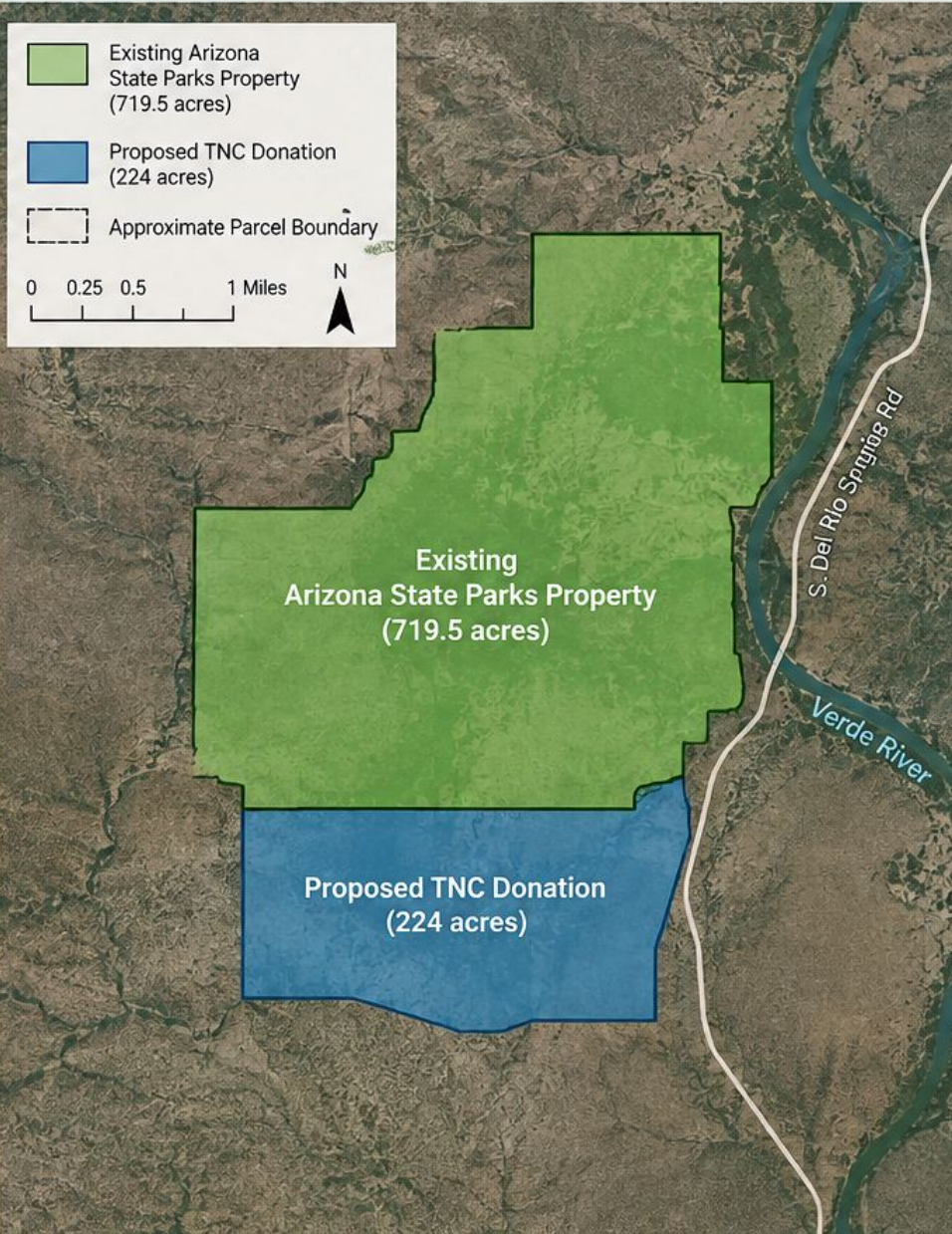
- **TPL facilitated transfer** of 719.5 acres to Arizona State Parks in March 2024.
- **Funding:** \$6 million from the State of Arizona (legislative initiative) and \$1.5 million from Yavapai County.
- **Location:** At the headwaters of the Verde River.
- **Current Status:** Property is under the oversight of the Operations team pending future development funding.

### Proposed TNC Donation

- **224 acres** adjacent to the south of the existing Del Rio Springs property.
- **TNC is fully funding and facilitating** the acquisition, then transferring the property to Arizona State Parks.
- Arizona State Parks is consulting with the Governor's Office before finalizing acceptance of the donation.
- The Board will be asked to approve accepting the donated parcel.

## Del Rio Springs – Existing and Proposed Parcels

Yavapai County, Arizona



# Arizona's New State Park – Del Rio Springs & the Verde River Headwaters

Arizona State Parks Board Meeting

September 17, 2026

Jody Norris

Protection Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

[jody.norris@tnc.org](mailto:jody.norris@tnc.org)



# Building on the Success of our Partners...

- Arizona State Parks and Trails stepped up to protect Del Rio Springs Ranch as a new state park, March 11, 2024 (closing)
- Town of Chino Valley embraced the park and is a collaborative landowner
- Trust for Public Land navigated the first acquisitions and established a strong partnership in the community
- Greater Chino Valley Collaborative (GCVC) is a local partner group committed to supporting the creation of a great park through expert guidance and community outreach

# Why TNC is Here Today

## **Communicate the Opportunity**

Share the importance and urgency of completing the final phase of land acquisition at Del Rio Springs Ranch.

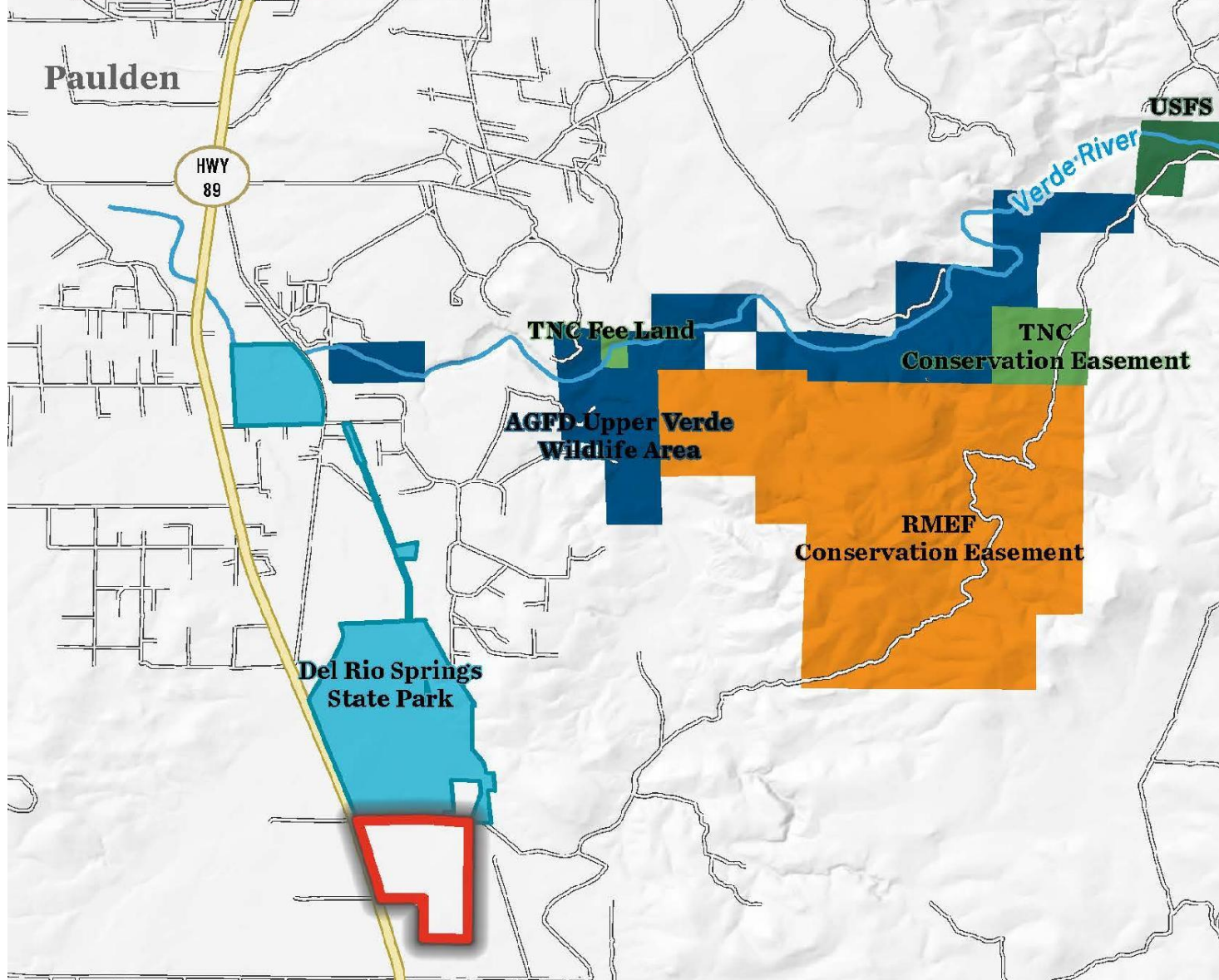
## **Highlight TNC's Role**

Describe TNC's contributions, public engagement efforts, and long-term commitment to the new State Park.

## **Strengthen Partnerships**

Celebrate and support our collaboration with Arizona State Parks and Trails and other key partners.

# Upper Verde River Land & Water Protection



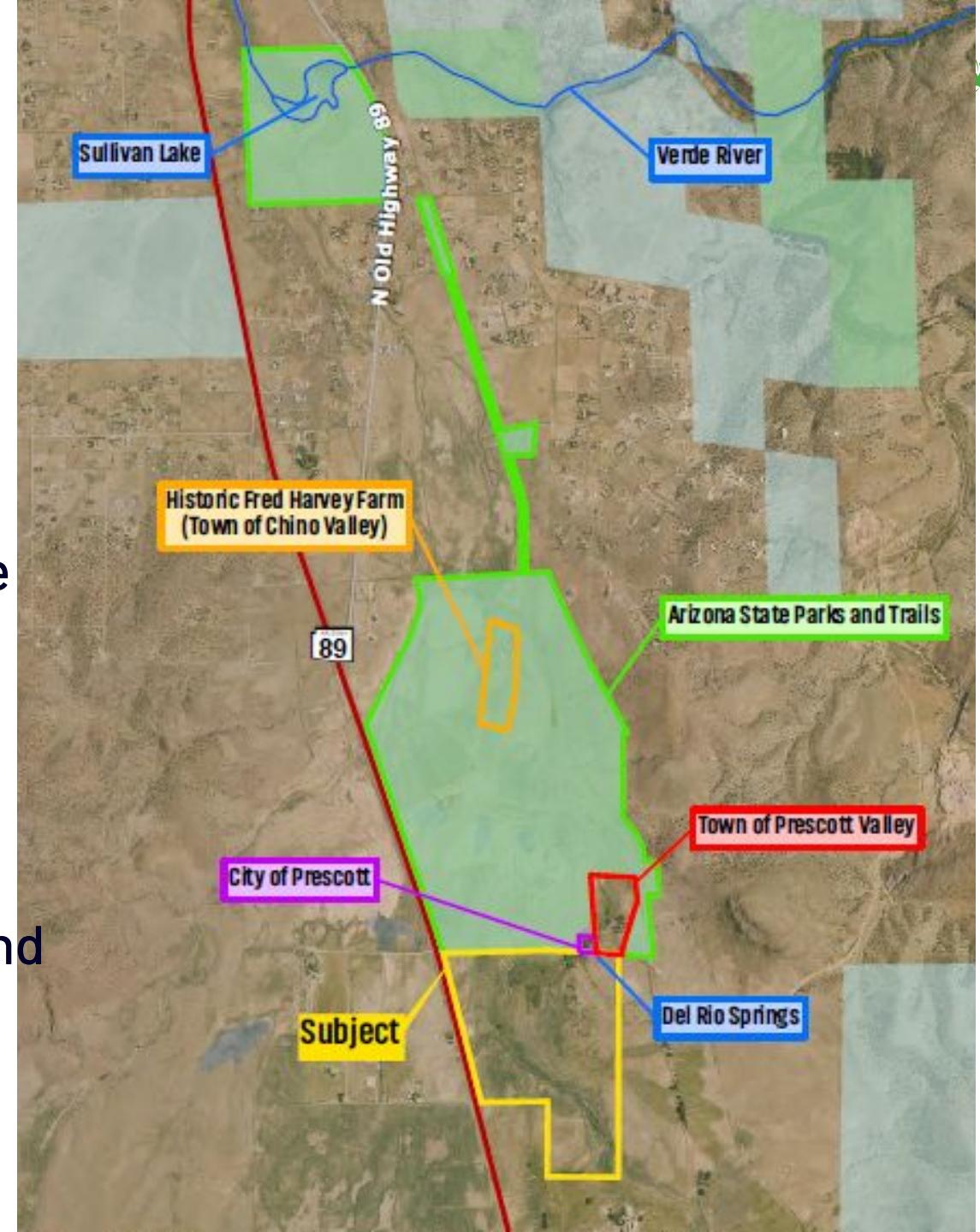
# Upper Verde River Conservation Goals

- Protecting streamflow by limiting groundwater withdrawals
- Preserving grasslands and wildlife connectivity in the Big Chino Grasslands
- Conserving important freshwater systems and springs
- Maintaining water quality and flows in the Verde River for communities that depend on it



# Del Rio Springs Ranch Opportunity

- Protection of Sullivan Lake – Mile 0 of the Verde River
- State Park that allows visitors to explore the properties Historic, Recreation, and Conservation values
- Incredible support of partners, community, and landowner interest
- Opportunity for restoration of the springs and wetland habitat



# Urgency to Acquire the Southern Parcel

- Building on the progress made by Arizona State Parks, Trust for Public Land, and the Town of Chino Valley
- Protecting Del Rio Springs complex and the Cottonwood gallery that includes bald eagle nests & Great Blue Heron rookery
- Critical link in extending the Peavine National Recreation Trail, connecting Prescott to the Verde River Headwaters
- Time-sensitive funding opportunity leveraging Pulliam Foundation support and existing TNC conservation funds
- Timely opportunity to protect the parcel from accelerating subdivision and development occurring throughout the surrounding area



# Questions?



## AGENDA-D7

### **Motion**

*I move that the Arizona State Parks Board approve ASPT to accept the donation of the south parcel of the Del Rio Springs property.*

## AGENDA-D8

# Budget Update and Financial Overview

**(Presenter: Kevin Brock, Chief Financial Officer)**

**This agenda item is for informational purposes only.**

## AGENDA-D8

# FY 2027 Budget Highlights

- \$1,000,000 increase in SPRF operating budget for 11 new FTEs
- \$10M Veterans Memorial appropriation extended to FY28
- \$3,552,200 Major Maintenance appropriation
- \$200,000 Tonto Bridge CIP project for monitoring
- \$8,600,000 Swept from SPRF to the General Fund
- \$549,600 potential transfer from SPRF to the Historical Society

# FY 2028 Funding Request

## Requesting funding for Tubac Presidio State Park Operations

- **Four FTEs**
- Park Manager (1 FTE) \$96,400
- Park Rangers (3 FTE) \$208,080
- **Total Salaries \$304,480**

**Ongoing Operations** (Utilities, Supplies, Waste Removal, Other) **\$50,000**

**Total Ongoing Costs \$354,480**

### **One Time Transition Costs**

**Equipment & Tool purchase \$45,000**

## AGENDA-D8

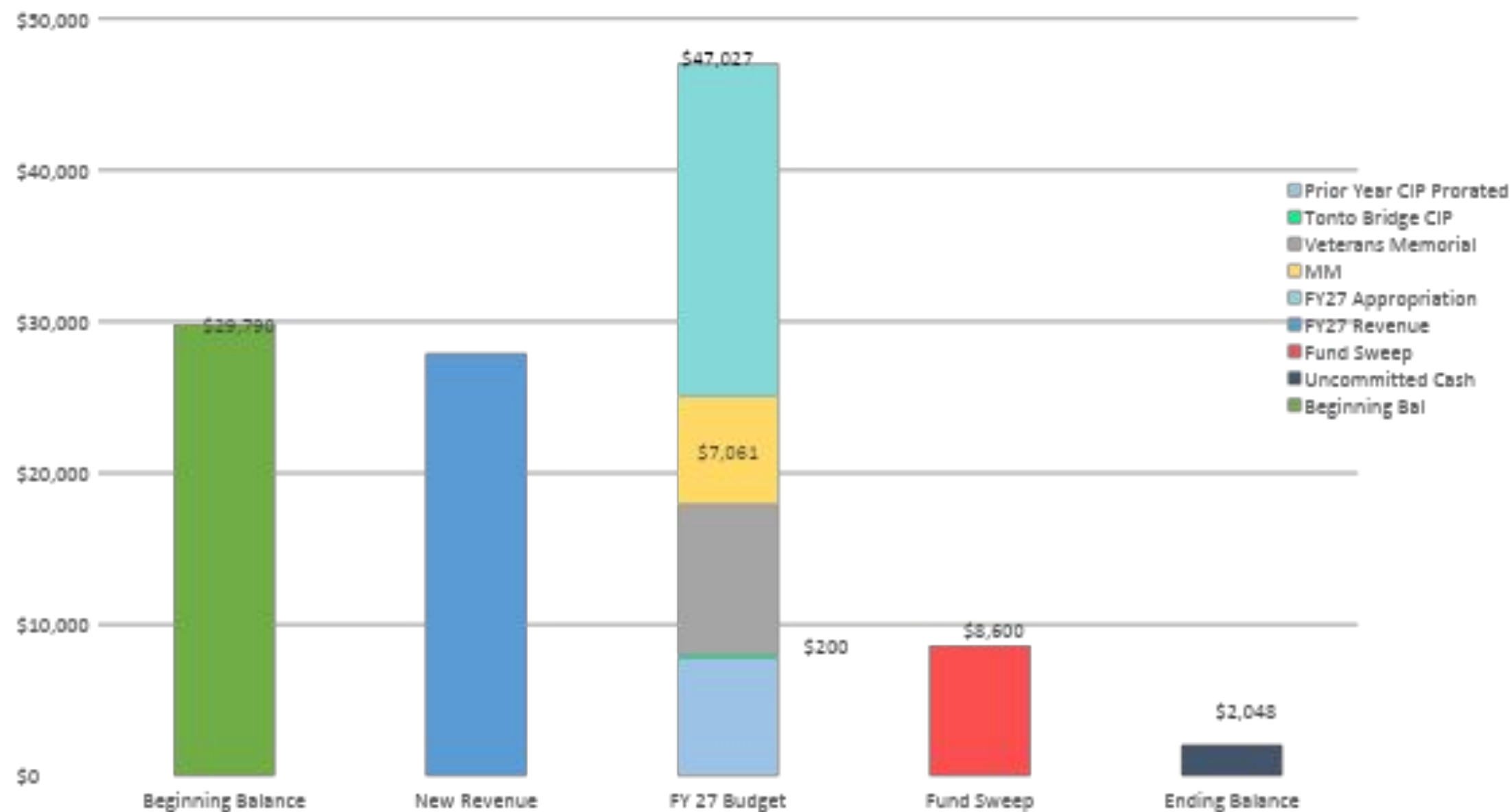
# FY 2028 Funding Request

## **Requesting funding for 26 FTEs – Remaining positions from the FY27 request of 37 FTEs**

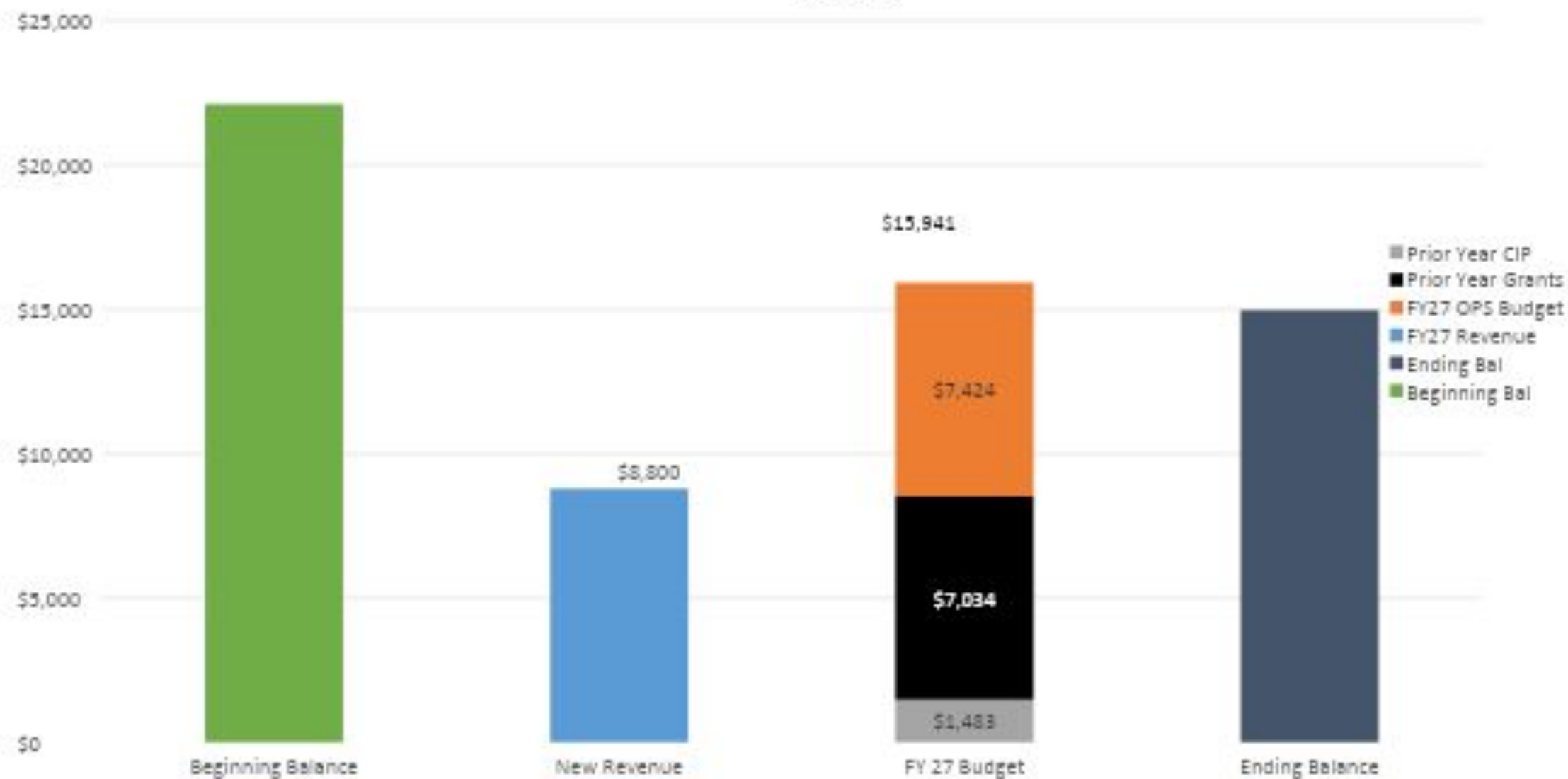
ASPT is requesting an appropriation increase of \$2,624,900 for the SPRF operating budget for 26 FTE positions.

- Law Enforcement (8 FTE)
- Interpretive/Education Programs (7 FTE)
- Park Maintenance (9 FTE)
- IT Support (1 FTE) – To support Homeland Security initiatives
- Marketing (1 FTE) – To backfill the Office of Outdoor Recreation position

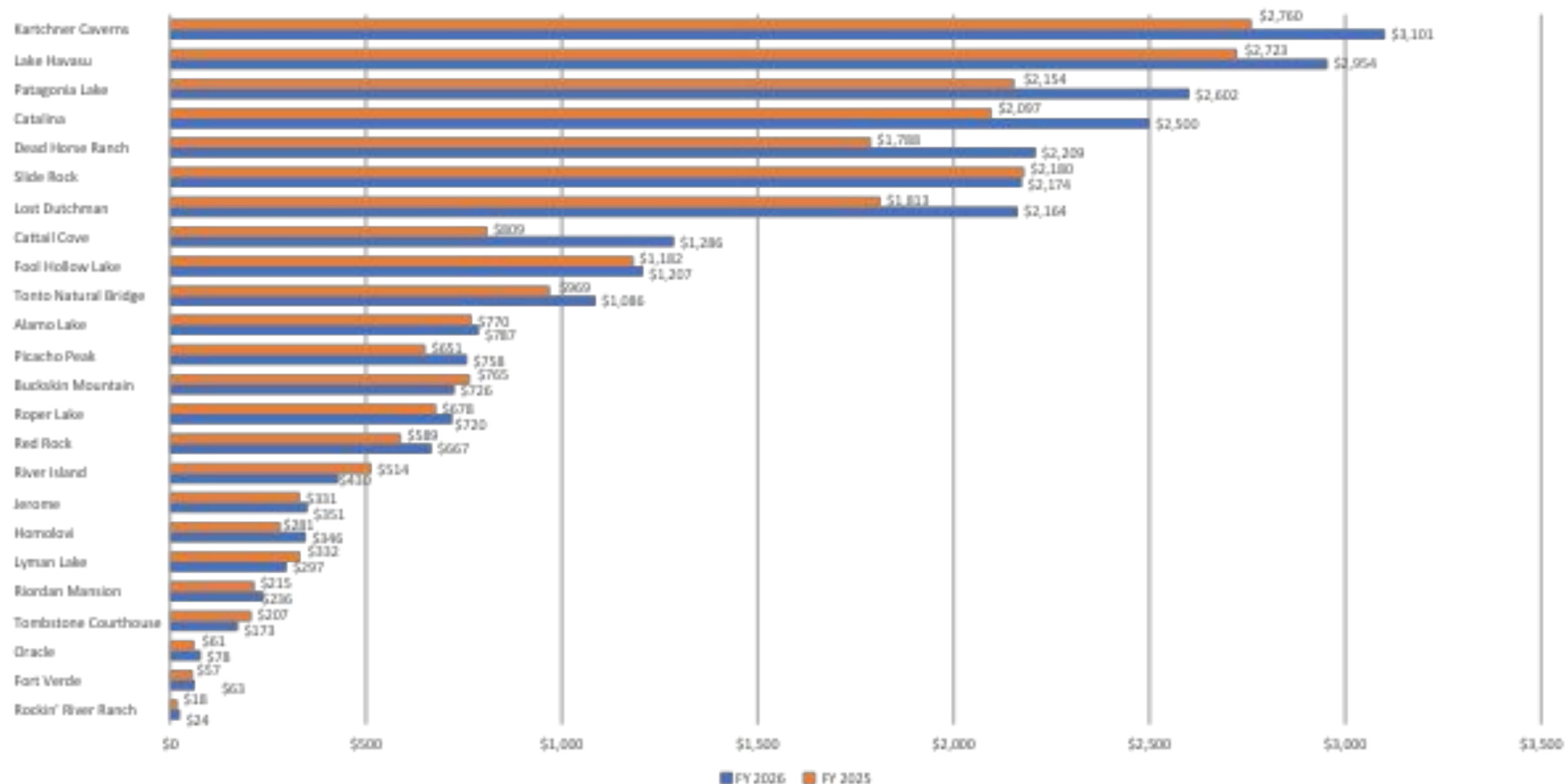
# SPRF FY 27 Balance and Budget (\$000's)



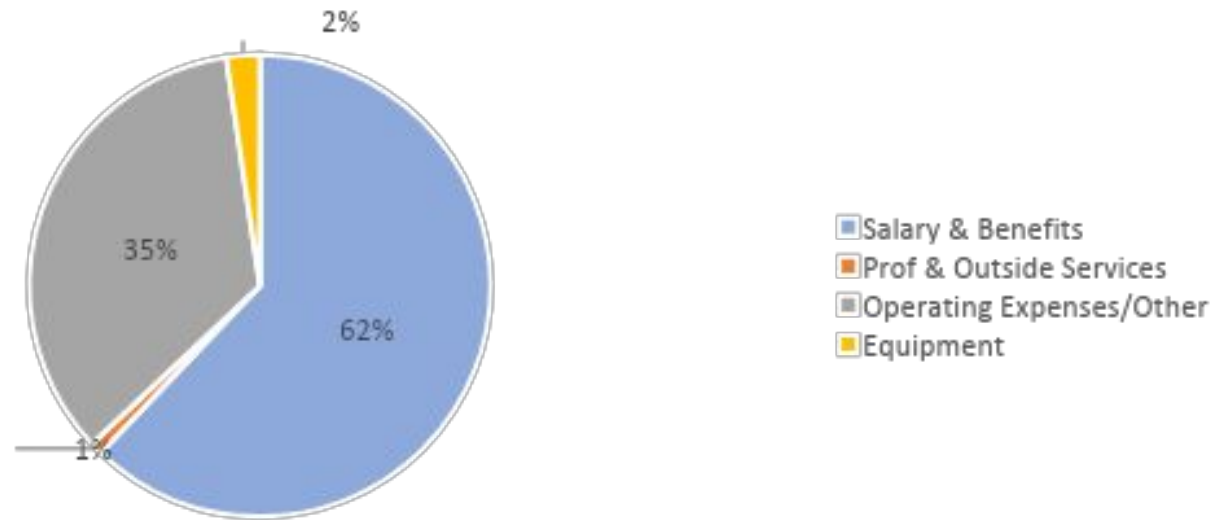
# SLIF FY 27 Balance and Budget (\$000's)



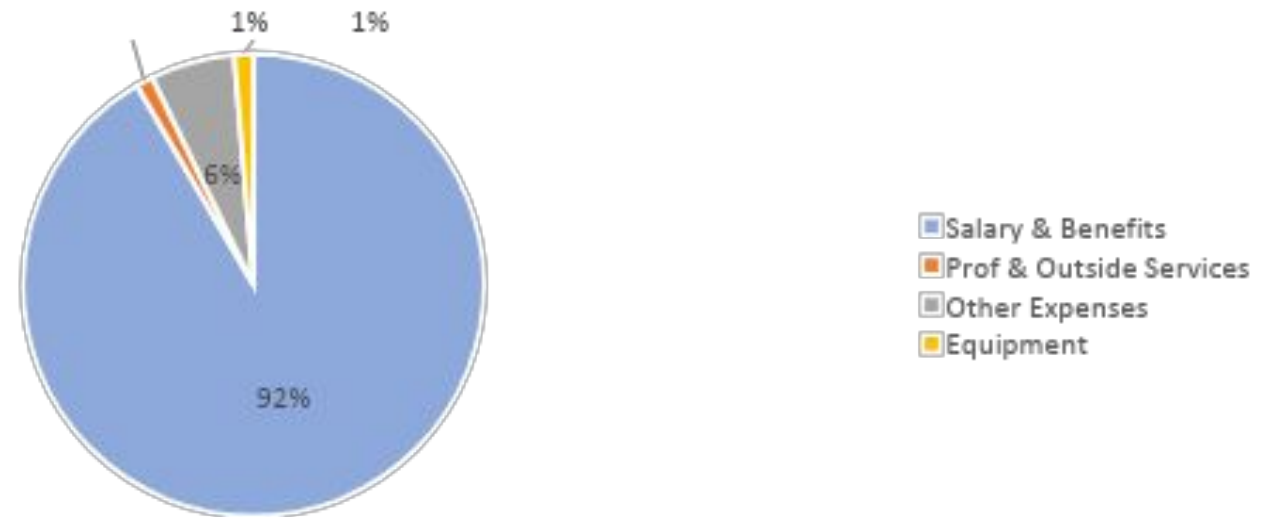
FY26 June YTD Revenue by Park  
(\$000's)



### SPRF Expenditures by Category



### SLIF Expenditures by Category



## Fund Balances (\$000's)

|                                             | STATE PARK<br>REVENUE FUND | STATE LAKE<br>IMPROVEMENT<br>FUND | FEDERAL FUNDS | OFF HIGHWAY<br>VEHICLE FUND | PARTNERSHIP<br>FUND | SUSTAINABLE<br>PARKS & ROADS<br>FUND | DONATIONS<br>FUND | PARK STORE<br>FUND | HERITAGE FUND | TOTAL          |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Balance Carry Forward from Prior Year       | 21,190                     | 22,119                            | 2,026         | 18,435                      | 3,309               | 709                                  | 1,111             | 1,682              | 5,124         | 75,705         |
| Operating Revenue                           | 27,885                     | 8,800                             |               |                             |                     |                                      |                   | 1,790              |               | 38,475         |
| Other Revenue (Grants, Donations & Other)   |                            |                                   | 9,829         | 4,345                       | 2,555               | 87                                   | 180               |                    | 185           | 17,181         |
| <b>TOTAL STATE PARKS REVENUES</b>           | <b>27,885</b>              | <b>8,800</b>                      | <b>9,829</b>  | <b>4,345</b>                | <b>2,555</b>        | <b>87</b>                            | <b>180</b>        | <b>1,790</b>       | <b>185</b>    | <b>55,656</b>  |
| Operating Expenditures                      | 21,995                     | 7,424                             |               | 537                         |                     |                                      |                   | 1,540              |               | 31,496         |
| Other Expenditures (GRNTS, DON & OTH)       |                            |                                   | 9,829         | 3,808                       | 2,555               | 87                                   | 180               |                    |               | 16,459         |
| Arizona Veterans Memorial State Park        | 10,000                     |                                   |               |                             |                     |                                      |                   |                    |               | 10,000         |
| Capital Projects Tonto Bridge (FY27)        | 200                        |                                   |               |                             |                     |                                      |                   |                    |               | 200            |
| Major Maintenance (FY27)                    | 7,061                      |                                   |               |                             |                     |                                      |                   |                    |               |                |
| Capital Projects (Prior Years-Prorated)     | 7,771                      |                                   |               |                             |                     |                                      |                   |                    |               | 7,771          |
| Prior Year Commitments (Admin, GRNTS & OTH) |                            | 8,517                             | 2,026         | 14,000                      |                     |                                      |                   |                    | 5,309         | 29,852         |
| <b>TOTAL STATE PARKS EXPENDITURES</b>       | <b>47,027</b>              | <b>15,941</b>                     | <b>11,855</b> | <b>18,345</b>               | <b>2,555</b>        | <b>87</b>                            | <b>180</b>        | <b>1,540</b>       | <b>5,309</b>  | <b>102,839</b> |
| <b>PROJECTED FUND BALANCE</b>               | <b>2,048</b>               | <b>14,978</b>                     | <b>-</b>      | <b>4,435</b>                | <b>3,309</b>        | <b>709</b>                           | <b>1,111</b>      | <b>1,932</b>       | <b>-</b>      | <b>28,522</b>  |

\$8,600,000 Swept at the end of FY2026

All Revenues & Expenditures are Projected

## AGENDA-D9

# **Guiding Arizona's Historic Preservation Future through Statewide Planning**

**(Presenters: Kathryn Leonard, SHPO, and Deb  
Pryor, Partners In Brainstorms)**

# MANY VOICES, MANY PLACES, ONE ARIZONA

Guiding Arizona's Historic Preservation Future  
through Statewide Planning



September 17, 2026

Kathryn Leonard, SHPO & Deb Pryor, Partners In Brainstorms

# BACKGROUND – WHY PLAN?

In compliance with the **National Historic Preservation Act**, **State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs)** must carry out a historic preservation **planning process** that includes the **development and implementation** of a **comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan** that provides guidance for effective decision making about historic property preservation throughout the state.

Arizona's **new Statewide Plan** will be for **2027-2037** and guide the next decade of historic preservation throughout the state.

# WHY PLAN?



# WHY PLAN?

- Identify **significant historic properties** in the state.
- Assess **political, economic, social, and environmental trends** affecting preservation efforts.
- Establish **Goals and Priorities** that can be addressed by preservation partners and incorporated into referenced plans.
- **Maximize limited financial and human resources** by establishing clear areas of focus.

# PLANNING PROCESS



# PLANNING PROCESS

## Stakeholders, Tribes, Federal, State, Local Groups, etc.

- Information Gathering Sessions
- Online Surveys

## Public

- Adults (Surveys & Interviews)
- Youth (Focus Groups)



# TRENDS

## ARIZONA-WIDE FORCES



Population Growth,  
Housing, and Infrastructure



Climate, Water Scarcity,  
and Environmental Stressors



Demographic Change



Community Revitalization  
and Heritage Tourism



Community and Individual  
Wellbeing, Social and Civic  
Indicators of Health



## PRESERVATION CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES



Threats to Archaeological  
and Cultural Resources



Tribal Sovereignty and  
Collaborative Stewardship



Public Expectations,  
Representation, and  
Inclusive Storytelling



Technology, Data  
Modernization, and  
Innovation

## CAPACITY TO ACT



Preservation  
Workforce Transition



Policy, Funding,  
and Investment



Institutional Capacity,  
Stewardship, and  
Volunteerism

# PRIORITIES



Strengthen **Collaborative Stewardship**  
of **Tribal Heritage**



Advance **Disaster Preparedness,**  
**Resilience, and Recovery**



Promote **Community and Individual**  
**Wellbeing** Through Historic Preservation

# PRIORITIES



Support **Landscape-Level Preservation**



Expand **Public Engagement** in Historic Preservation



Broaden Representation of **Underrepresented Communities**

# PRIORITIES



Build and Sustain Arizona's Preservation  
**Workforce**



Engage **Youth** in Historic Preservation



Integrate Historic Preservation into **Public  
Policy, Funding, and Investment**

# WORKING GROUP



## Setting Priorities

Engaged in collaborative discussions to identify and define Arizona's preservation priorities. Nine priority-focused subgroups were formed.



## Content Development

Contributed to content development, writing, and storytelling, including Guest Author pieces, to support and expand upon the priorities.



## Vision Statement

Collaborated in the development of the State Plan Vision Statement, which was also reviewed by the Arizona Heritage Preservation Youth Council.

# ARIZONA HERITAGE PRESERVATION YOUTH COUNCIL



The Arizona Heritage Preservation Youth Council acts as **stewards of Arizona's cultural, historical and natural legacy**. The nine-member council represents the **voice of Arizona's youth** and will lead projects that **promote preservation** and **inspire their peers and communities to value heritage** as a cornerstone of Arizona's future.



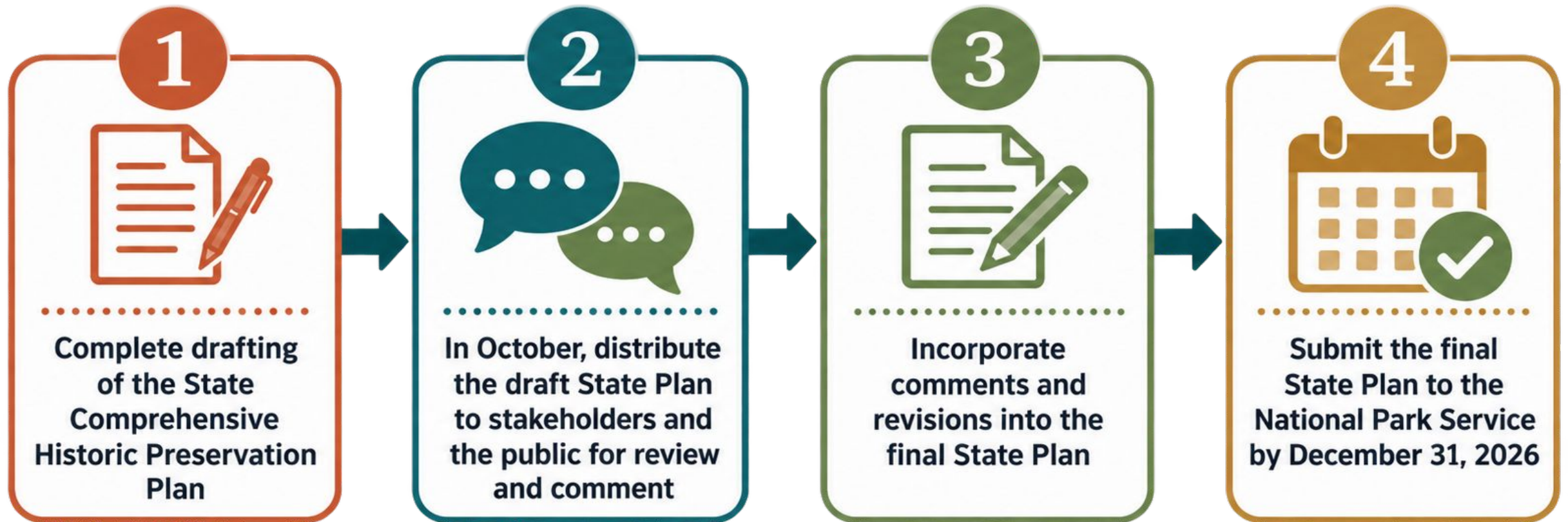
# THE VISION

## Many Voices, Many Places, One Arizona

We envision an Arizona where **diverse cultures and collective heritage** are reflected in **meaningful places** and **shared through the stories**.

Guided by **community engagement, intergenerational stewardship, education, strong partnerships, and a balanced approach to preservation and growth**, Arizona's historic and cultural places will continue to **foster vibrant communities, strengthen connections to the past, and inspire responsibility for what we pass on to future generations**.

# NEXT STEPS





# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Kathryn Leonard, SHPO & Deb Pryor, Partners In Brainstorms**



## AGENDA-D10

# **Sun Corridor Trail Presentation**

**(Presenter: RJ Cardin)**



**Explore. Discover.  
Connect.**

[suncorridortrail.org](http://suncorridortrail.org)



# AGENDA

- SCT Overview
- Recent Progress
- Challenges
- Concept to Reality: Next Steps
- Discussion and Questions



SUN CORRIDOR TRAIL



SUN CORRIDOR  
TRAIL

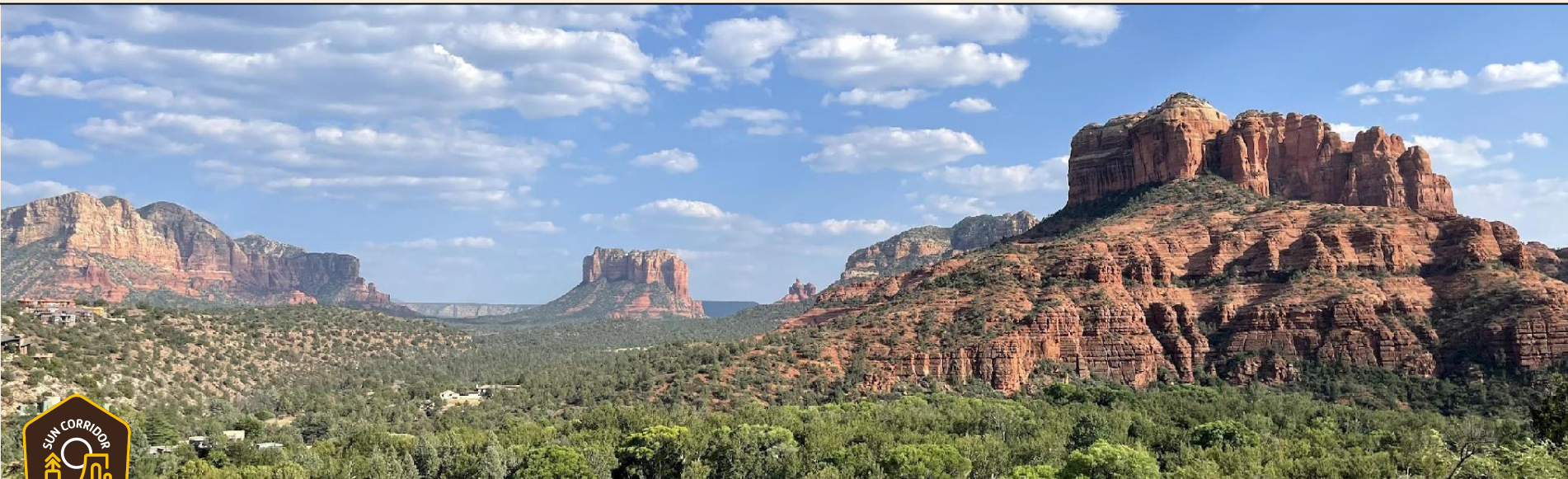
*Explore. Discover. Connect.*  
[suncorridortrail.org](http://suncorridortrail.org)

Arizona Office of Tourism



# THE SUN CORRIDOR TRAIL

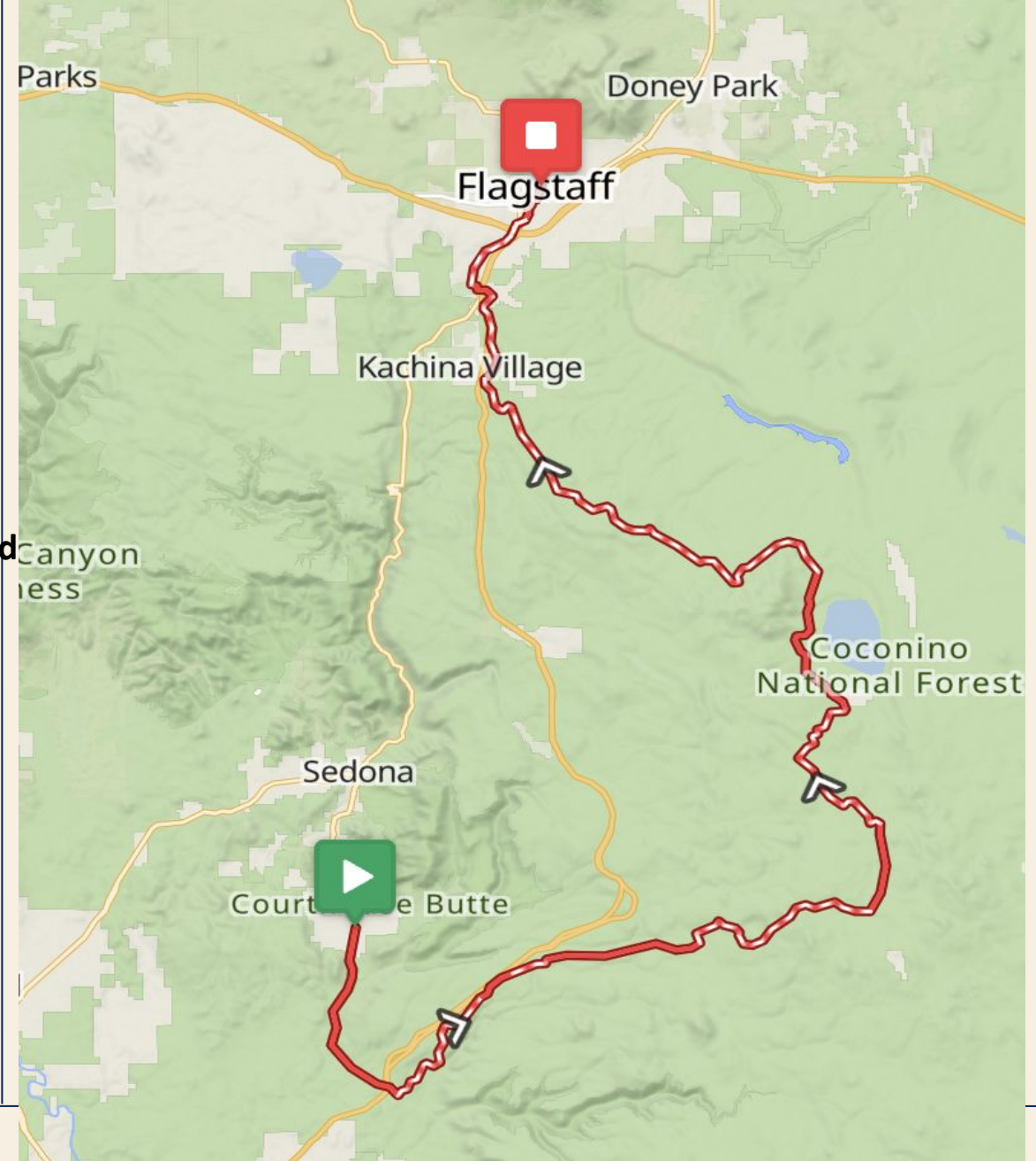
- Pima County and Maricopa County hatched an idea on a napkin in 2013 that connected proposed trail loops around their counties, linked by the CAP Trail.
- This led to looking at opportunities to connect existing and potential loop trails to the north and south.
- The concept is a “credit card” trail optimized for gravel biking, BUT the trail is multi-use.
- The trail is a work in progress through a multi-agency effort led by County, City, State, and Federal entities in partnership with the nonprofit Sun Corridor Trail Alliance.



SUN CORRIDOR TRAIL

# Northern Arizona

- Coconino County and Northern Arizona University (NAU) have been working on the SCT trail alignment and development since 2017
- With professor's guidance, momentum accelerated with master and undergraduate student involvement
- Miles of route alternatives and ground-truthing have been conducted
- Viable routes between Kingman, Peach Springs, Seligman, Ash Fork, Williams, Flagstaff, Village of Oak Creek, and Sedona have been identified
- NAU is designing statewide SCT trainings for community route assessments, ground-truthing, and selection.
- NAU working to develop a map database and repository
- Funding from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program will fund student's work throughout the state



Flagstaff to Oak Creek Alignment

# Northern Arizona

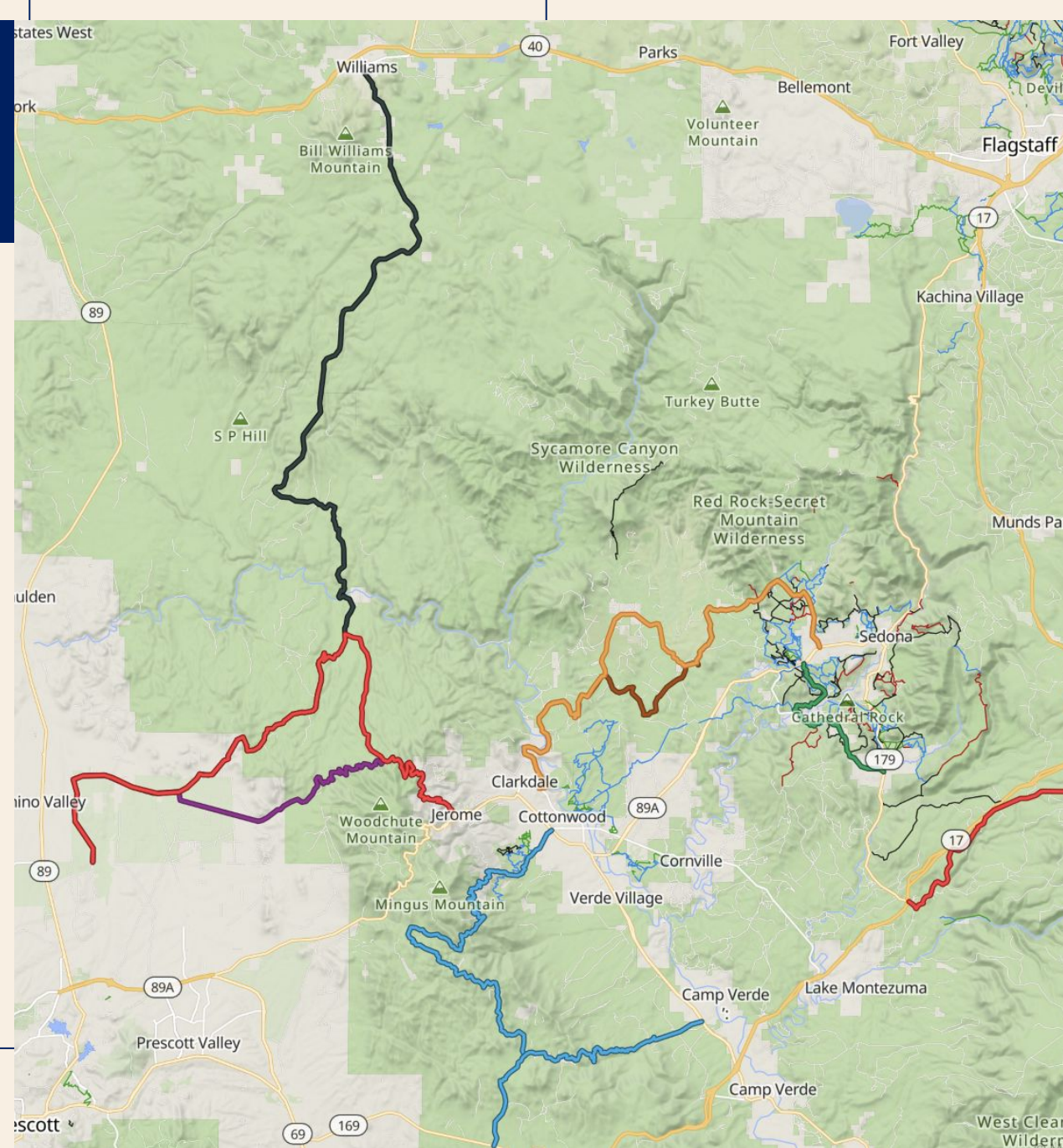
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Williams to Peach Springs Alignment

# Central/Verde Valley Arizona

- Multiple Route Options from Sedona to Prescott have been proposed
- A preferred alignment has not been identified
- NAU students will be conducting site visits in late 2026 through 2027, thanks to the RTCA Grant
- Local assistance is needed to ensure all viable routes are identified and checked



Verde Valley Area Opportunities

# Central Arizona

## Yavapai Plan and Regional Trails

- Yavapai Plan (YPlan) is the regional transportation planning organization for greater Yavapai County, Arizona. It brings together Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, Yavapai County, and ADOT to coordinate planning for roads, transit, bike paths, and pedestrian pathways
- YPlan is expanding its role to include comprehensive regional trails planning alongside its core transportation planning, with Move 2050 as the strategic framework and the new Regional Trails Plan as a key component for active transportation.
- A wide-ranging stakeholder group has been engaged in early plan development for the last 3 months.

## Trails Planning Process and Timeline



Assessment,  
Learning, Plan  
Scoping

Topical Discussions



Community  
Engagement

Public Meetings,  
Surveys, Council  
Presentations

Additional Public  
Meetings  
Plan Development



Plan Adoption  
Council/Leadership  
Presentations

Sept 2025 - Feb 2026

March 2026



March 2027

June-Sept 2027

## Yavapai Plan Expanded Boundary



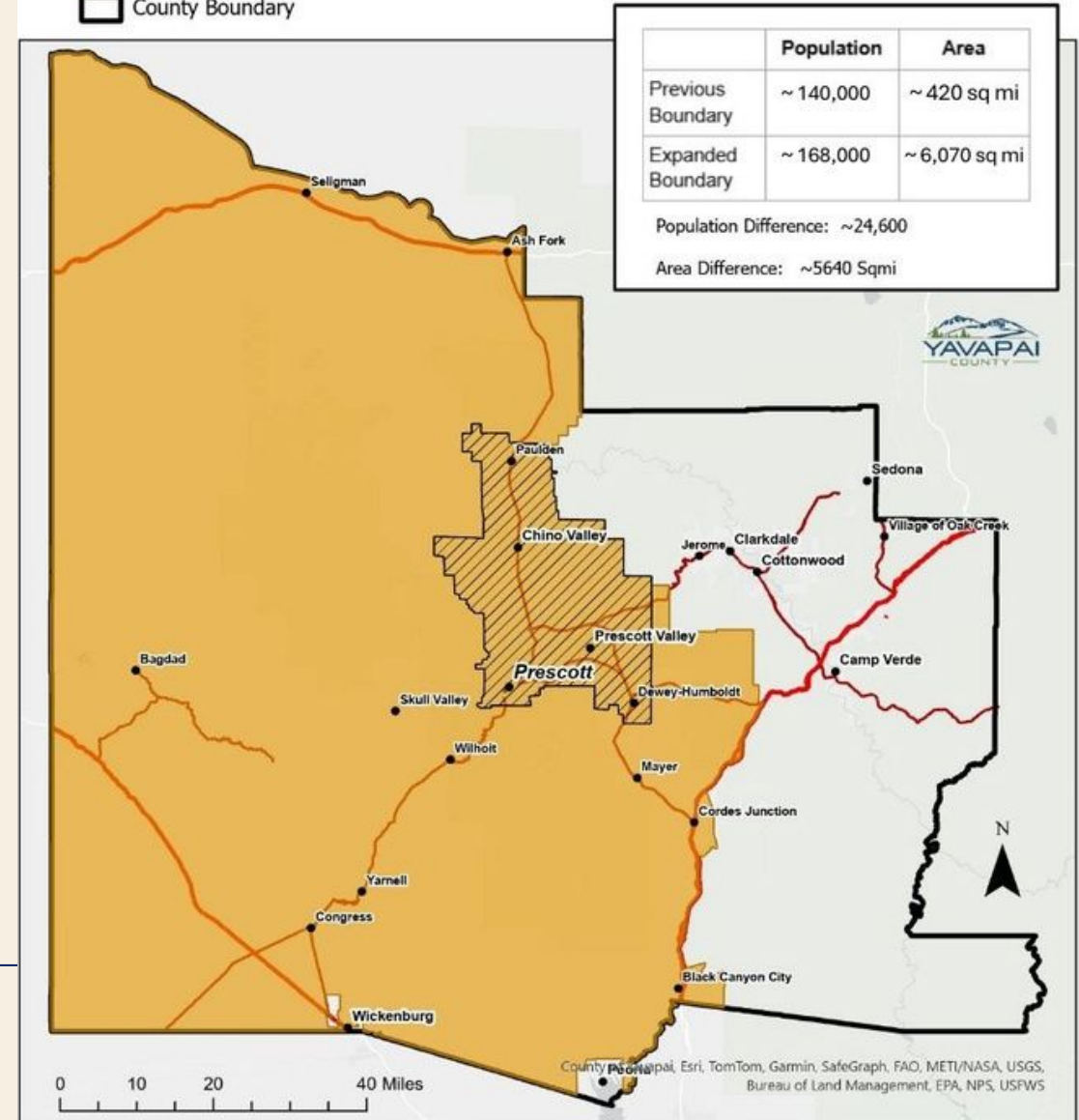
### Legend

- Previous Boundary
- Expanded Boundary
- County Boundary
- Interstate Highways
- State Highways

|                   | Population | Area          |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| Previous Boundary | ~ 140,000  | ~ 420 sq mi   |
| Expanded Boundary | ~ 168,000  | ~ 6,070 sq mi |

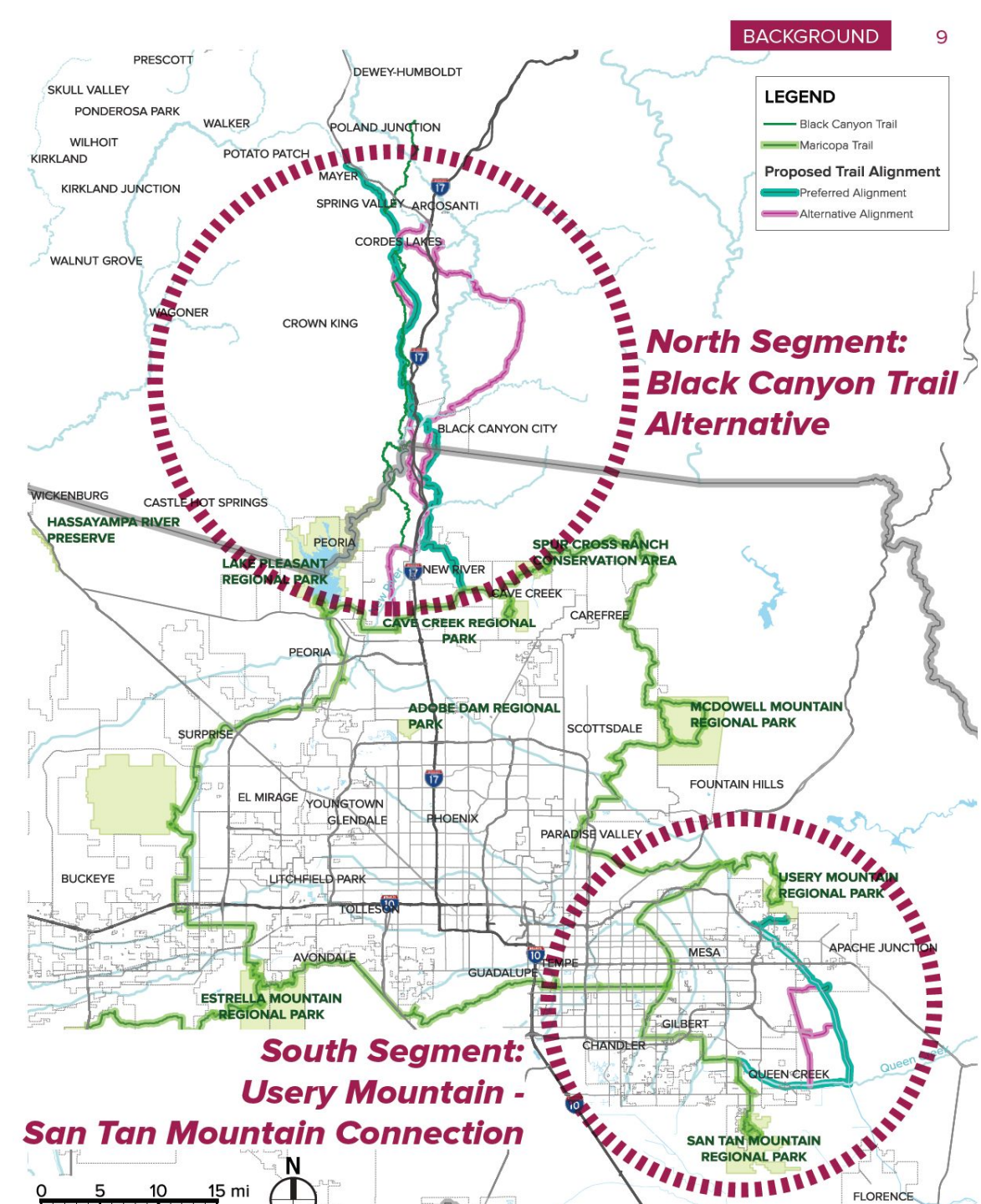
Population Difference: ~24,600

Area Difference: ~5640 Sqmi



# Central/Black Canyon Arizona

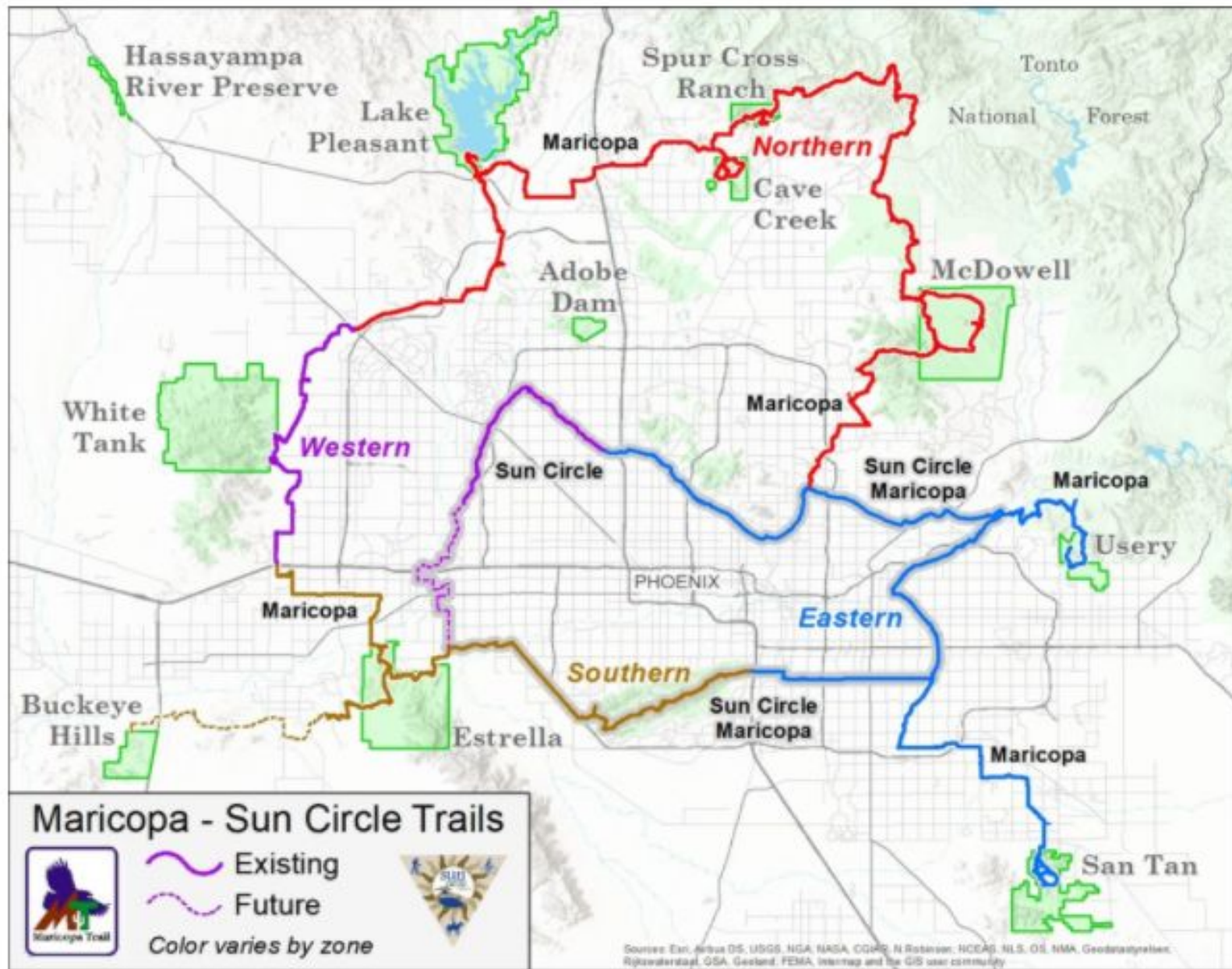
- Arizona Office of Tourism grant funded potential route identification study for connections to the Maricopa Trail
- Pulliam grant funding ground-truth analysis of the northern segment from the Maricopa Trail to Cordes Junction
- NAU students conducting site visits and will be completed late fall 2026
- Yavapai Regional Trails Plan is currently underway and funded by the Central Yavapai Regional Planning Organization - YPlan



# MARICOPA COUNTY



SUN CORRIDOR TRAIL



## Maricopa Trail

The **Maricopa Trail** is a 315-mile long loop trail encompassing the Phoenix metropolitan area

The **Sun Circle Trail** is the original 128-mile long metropolitan loop that shares a portion of the newer Maricopa Trail loop.

\*Currently discussing how the Rio Reimagined Trail could be incorporated.

# South Central Arizona

- Phase 2 (January 2026), Pinal County will have almost 50 miles of CAP Trail and 5 trailhead facilities complete.
- Offers trail connection opportunities for the City of Coolidge and the Town of Florence.
- Phase 3 planning and environmental review is currently in process. (25.2 miles from Arizona Farms Road to Baseline Road)
- Phase 3 includes trail connection opportunities for the Towns of Florence, San Tan Valley and Queen Creek and the City of Apache Junction.

## C.A.P. Trail in PINAL COUNTY

### WHAT IS THE CAP TRAIL?

In addition to a reliable supply of Colorado River water, the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal system affords another potential benefit to the state of Arizona - a long distance, non-motorized, multi-use recreational trail corridor. The trail was considered before any feature of the canal was built and was included in the environmental study that looked at the potential impact the CAP system would have on the environment and wildlife. This study, not only ensured compliance with state and federal regulations to protect native fish, wildlife and plants, but it also considered the opportunity for a recreational trail to be constructed along the entire 336 mile length of the canal. Once completed, the Central Arizona Project Trail would be the second longest trail in Arizona behind the Arizona Trail.

Visit: [cap-az.com](http://cap-az.com) for more information



### Utilize Our GIS Map Viewer

For additional information and details about the C.A.P. Trail in Pinal County please visit our site.

Visit: [pinal.gov/CapTrailMapView](http://pinal.gov/CapTrailMapView) or scan the QR code.



Great Related Resources:  
[explore.pinal.gov/TrailEtiquette](http://explore.pinal.gov/TrailEtiquette)  
[pinal.gov/KeepPinalPristine](http://pinal.gov/KeepPinalPristine)  
[pinal.gov/Wildlife](http://pinal.gov/Wildlife)

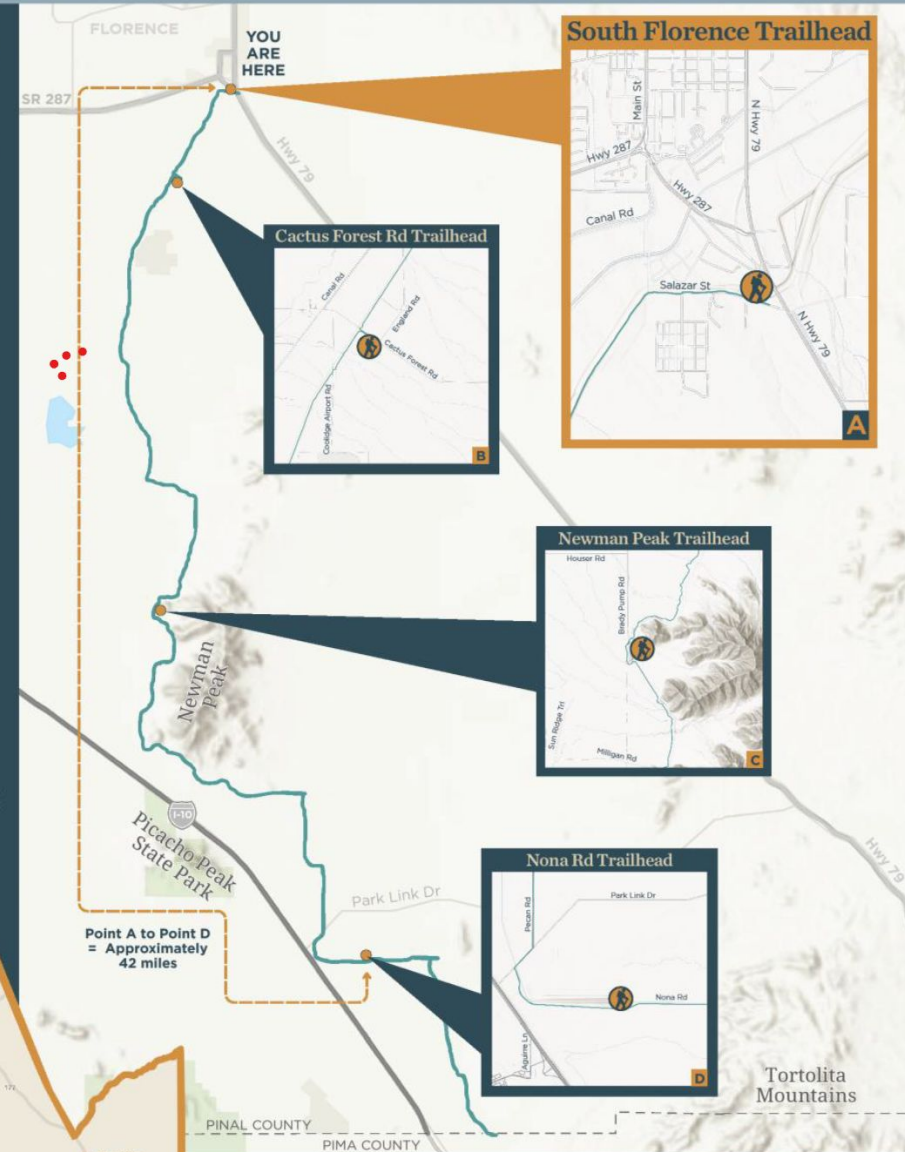


### Leave No Trace:

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Trash Your Trash
- Leave What You Find
- Be Careful With Fire
- Respect Wildlife
- Share The Trail

### Emergency: 911

Pinal County Sheriff's Office:  
520-866-5111



### LEGEND

- C.A.P. Trail
- Interstate 10
- Highway
- County Boundary Line
- Roads
- Trailhead



# PIMA COUNTY



The Loop is a system of paved shared use paths and short segments of buffered bike lanes connecting the Hilltop, Santa Cruz, and Pintaño River Parks with the Julian Wash and Harrison Road Greenways. More than 124 miles of paved pathways and bike lanes have already been completed with an additional 9 miles planned or currently under construction. Distance includes both sides of the river park as well as neighborhood path connectors. The Loop extends through unincorporated Pima County, Marana, Oro Valley, Tucson, and South Tucson. The connections are the result of Pima County's cooperative partnerships with these jurisdictions.

The Loop connects parks, trails, schools, bus and bike routes, workplaces, restaurants, schools, hotels and motels, shopping areas, and entertainment venues. Visitors and Pima County residents can enjoy The Loop on foot, bikes, skates, and horses. If it doesn't have an engine, it's good to go on the Loop. The Loop is a work in progress. Stay up-to-date on developments on The Loop by visiting:

[www.pima.gov/TheLoop](http://www.pima.gov/TheLoop)  
[www.facebook.com/rideTheLoop](https://www.facebook.com/rideTheLoop)



All information on this map is subject to change and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Pima County makes no representation or warranties, expressed or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information.

Questions? Comments?  
 Contact Matt Zoll, Pima County Bike and Pedestrian Program,  
 520-724-BIKE or [www.bikeped.pima.gov](http://www.bikeped.pima.gov)

To report maintenance needs, contact Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation,  
 520-724-5000.



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• Visit [www.pima.gov/heat](http://www.pima.gov/heat) for additional heat safety tips.

• In less travelled areas of the path, be aware of your surroundings and, whenever possible, walk or ride with a friend.

• When riding or walking on The Loop, carry some form of identification, tell someone where you're going and carry a cell phone.

• Give wildlife a wide berth. Watch out for javelina, coyotes, bats and rattlesnakes, particularly around sunrise and sunset, and never approach a wild animal.

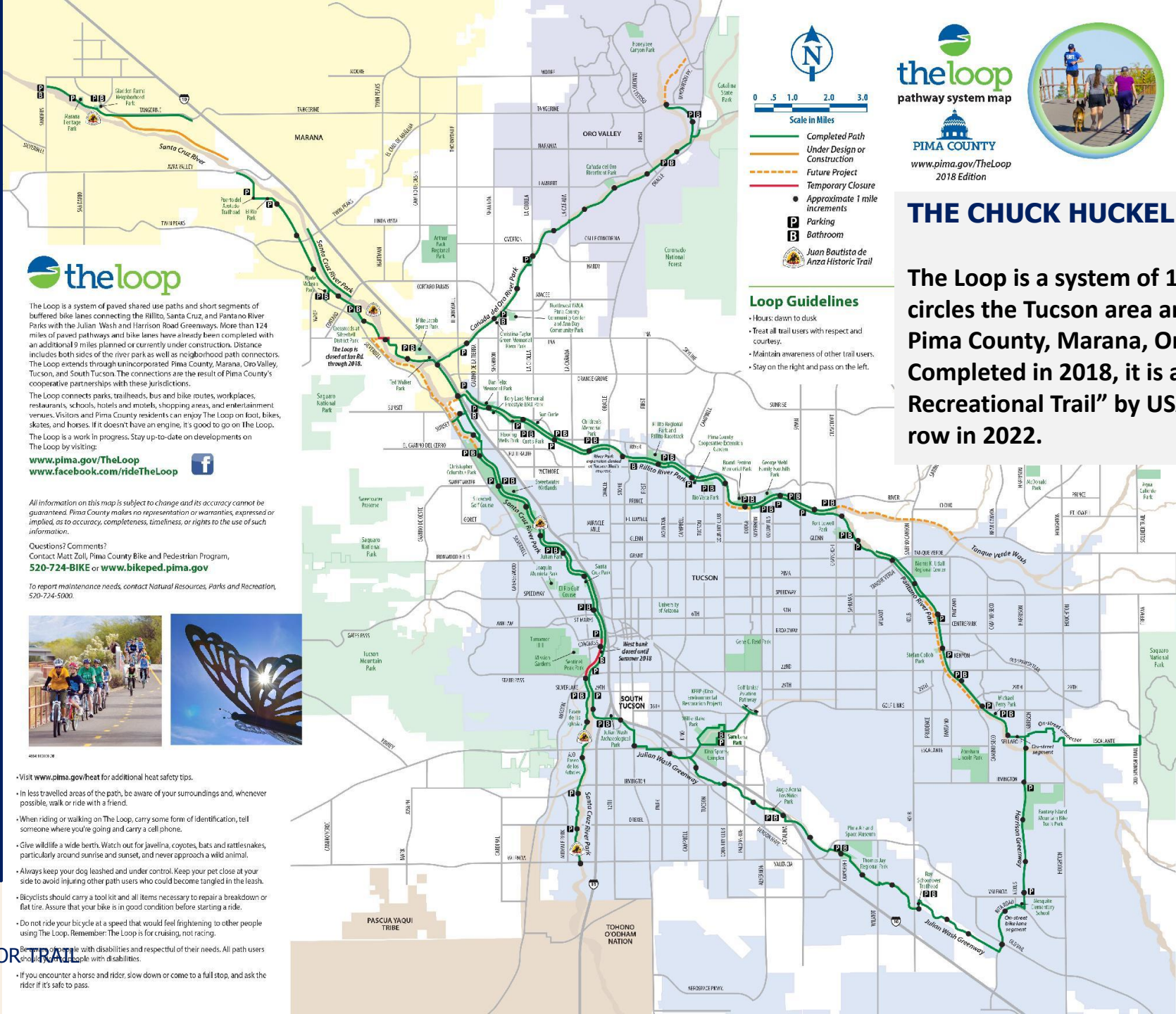
• Always keep your dog leashed and under control. Keep your pet close at your side to avoid injuring other path users who could become tangled in the leash.

• Bicyclists should carry a tool kit and all items necessary to repair a breakdown or flat tire. Assume that your bike is in good condition before starting a ride.

• Do not ride your bicycle at a speed that would be frightening to other people using The Loop. Remember: The Loop is for cruising, not racing.

• Be courteous to people with disabilities and respectful of their needs. All path users are encouraged to be respectful of people with disabilities.

• If you encounter a horse and rider, slow down or come to a full stop, and ask the rider if it's safe to pass.



SUN CORRIDOR TRAIL

# Southern Arizona

- From Local Success to Regional Transformation Bisbee Bikeways
- Bisbee Area Mobility Master Plan (2023) Model for rural connectivity and backbone for Sun Corridor Trail in Cochise County
- Partners in Planning and Development ADOT, County, City, EDA, SCTA, with more than \$10m secured for development
- Construction began August 24, 2026!

**WE HAVE A SIGNED CONTRACT!**

**CONSTRUCTION IS COMING TO LAVENDER PIT!**

**NOTICE TO PROCEED  
AUGUST 3RD, 2026**

**GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY  
AUGUST 24, 2026**

**BISBEE BIKEWAYS**

**City of BISBEE**

**A LONG JOURNEY. A STRONG FINISH.**

Years of hard work. Many partners. One shared vision.

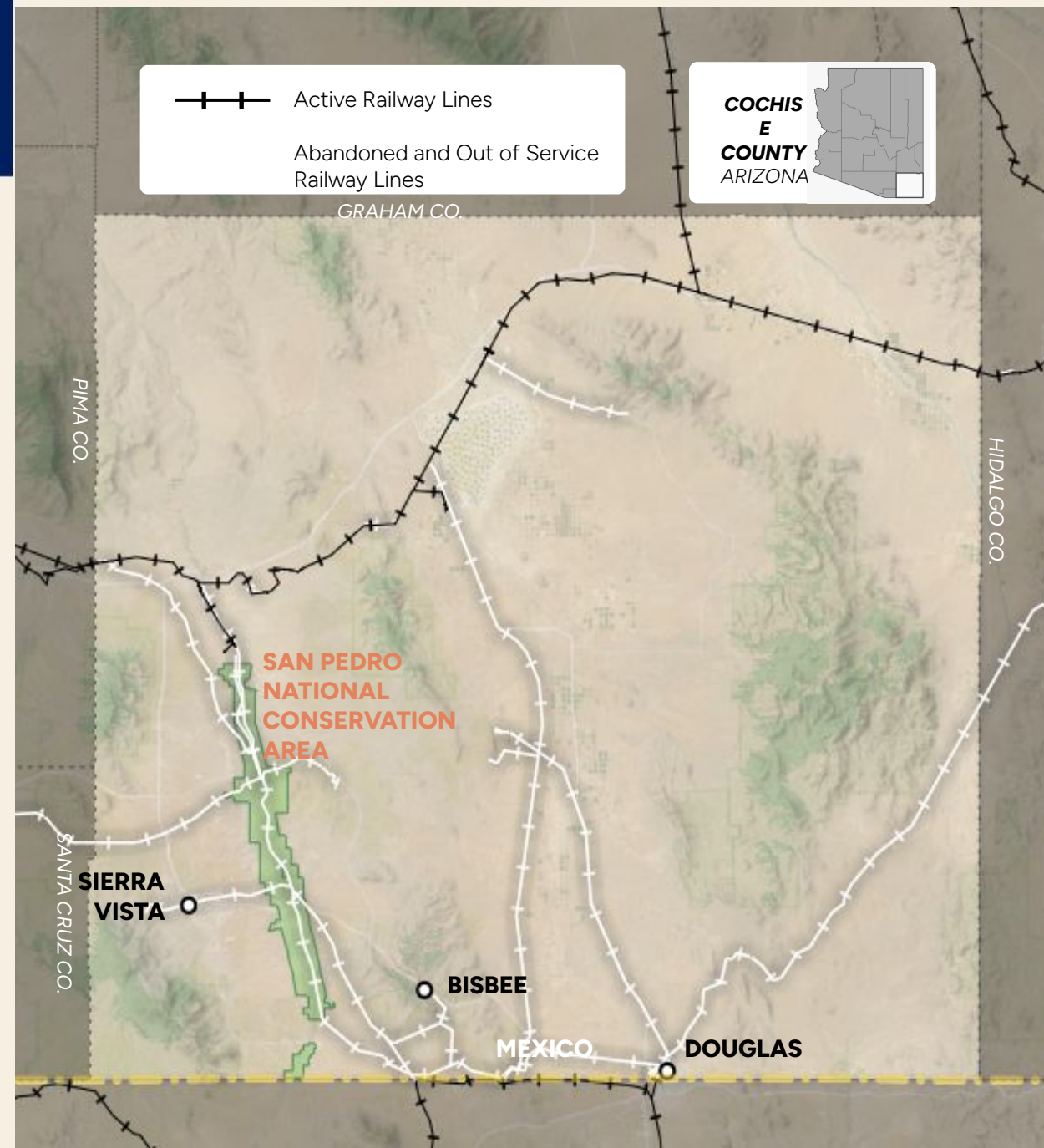
2018 2022 2022 2022, 2026 May-June 2026 AUGUST 3RD, 2026 AUGUST 24, 2026

ADOT

# Southern Arizona

- **TrailNation Accelerator: Bisbee–Douglas–SCTA Cohort:**

- National program by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy supporting rural communities to build connected trail networks.
- Provides technical assistance, strategy, and peer learning to move projects from vision → implementation
- Douglas and Bisbee are working together to form the first SCTA connection between towns in Cochise County
- RTC is currently assessing abandoned rail corridors in Cochise County to determine feasibility of using some corridors for community and SCT connectivity



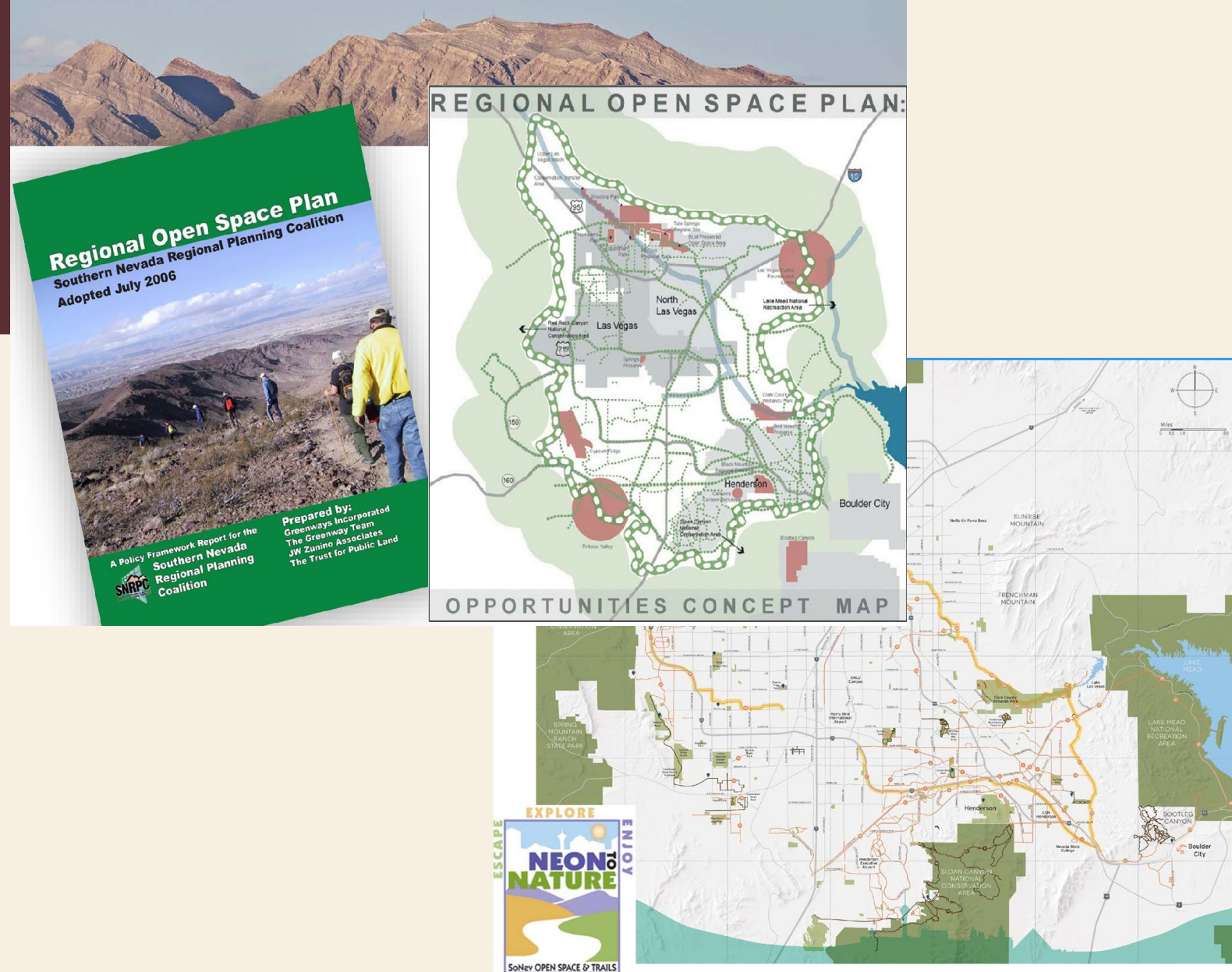
# Nevada/Arizona Connection

## Nevada Regional Open Space and Trails (ROST)

- **ROST** is a collaborative planning body under the **Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC)** that focuses on improving transportation access to parks and open spaces in the Las Vegas Valley.
- 
- The mission is to **connect residents and visitors to the outdoors** beyond the Las Vegas Strip by integrating trails and open space into the regional transportation network.
- 

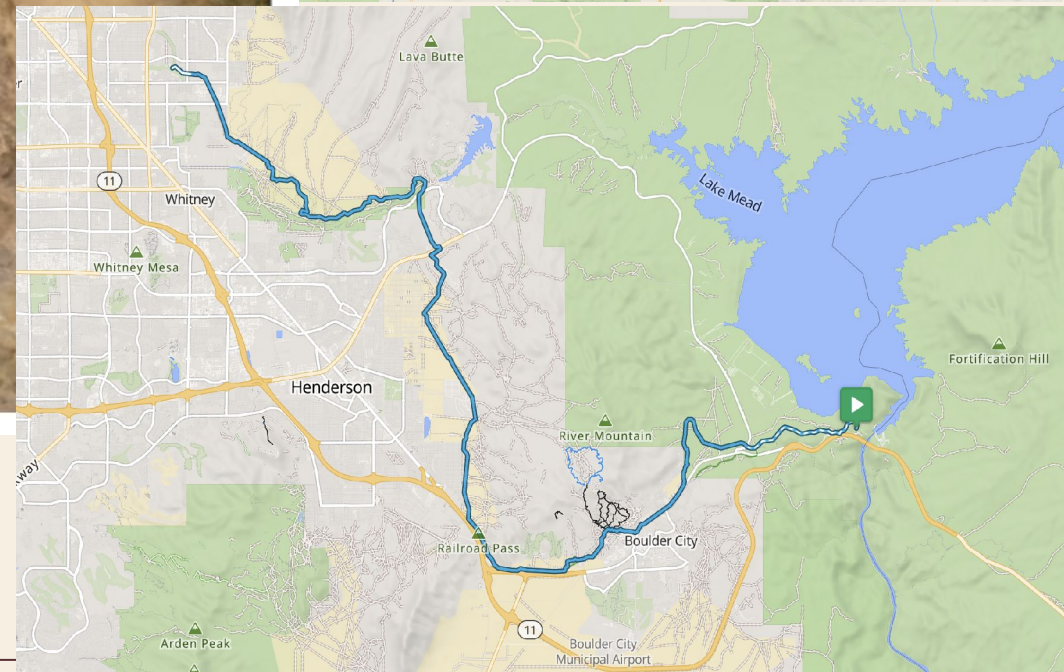
## **GOALS:**

- 1) **Improving economic competitiveness and education** through access to nature.
- 2) **Increasing transportation choice** by linking parks, trails, and recreational areas to transit and active transportation.
- 3) **Building “complete communities”** with safe, accessible, and connected open space



# Nevada/Arizona Connection

- Site visits and NAU Graduate Student work have helped identify possibilities in the region
- The area requires additional input from regional experts and site visits to scout and test potential alignments
- NAU and SCTA representatives will be conducting site visits beginning Fall 2026
- Key needs:
  - alignments between Laughlin and Boulder City
  - alignments into Las Vegas
  - end point in Las Vegas



# DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

## Challenge

Ongoing funding and a staff position dedicated exclusively to coordinating the advancement of the SCT remain the primary challenges — not a lack of grassroots capability.

## Proposal

**Request a legislative appropriation of \$750,000** that funds one full-time Sun Corridor Trail Coordinator position, operations, and travel for a period of not more than five years.

**The coordinator should be an Arizona State Parks and Trails employee** working with the Sun Corridor Trail Alliance (SCTA), Arizona's county governments, and federal partners to advance ongoing route identification, stakeholder and landowner coordination, grant administration and development, volunteer corps recruitment, and trail promotion.

**Transition trail management back to a collaborative team** of federal and state partners with leadership from the Sun Corridor Trail Alliance after completion.

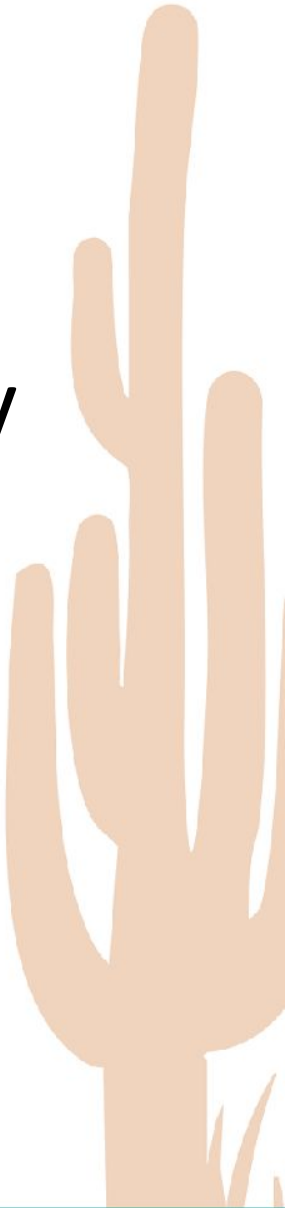
**This model was successful in completing the Arizona Trail!**

**Thank you for your time!**



## **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 – G

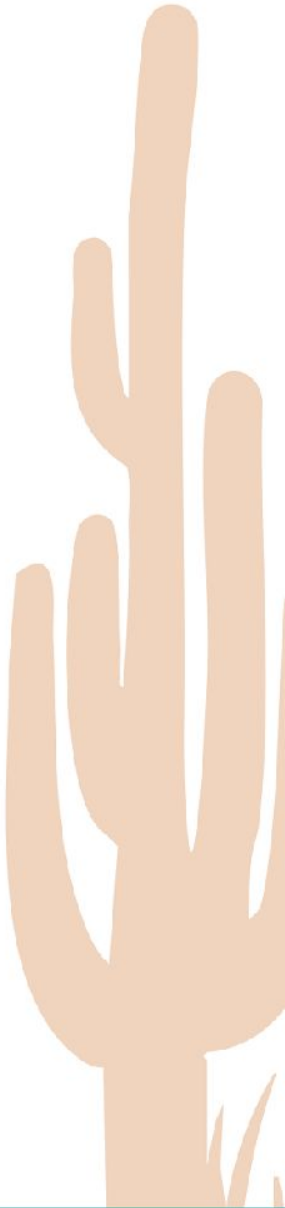
## **CURRENT EVENTS**

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 2026 Tentative Meeting Schedule |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Date                                                           | Location       |
| December 17, 2026                                              | Central Office |



# Thank You!

[AZStateParks.com](http://AZStateParks.com) | Follow us @azstateparks

