



ARIZONA
STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Arizona State Parks Board

April 16, 2026

John Sefton – Chair

Dale Larsen – Vice Chair

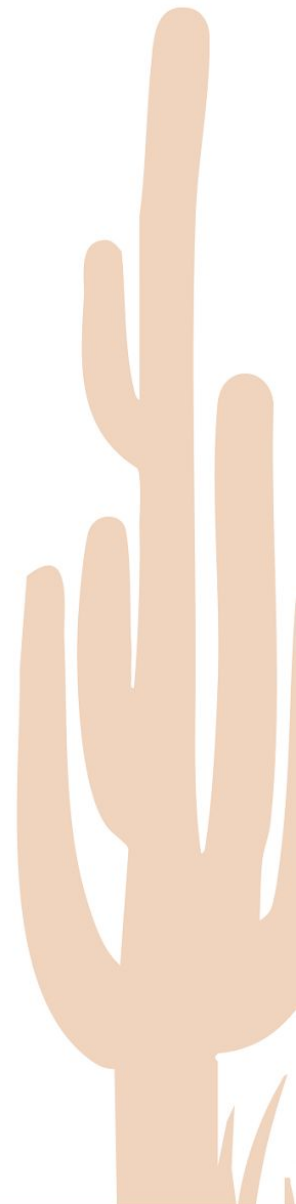
Robyn Sahid, Sarah King,

Terri Palmberg

(2 vacancies)

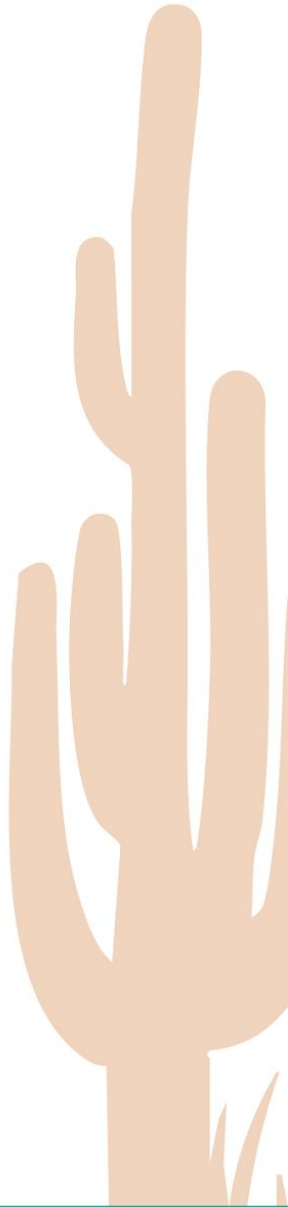
AGENDA A

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.”

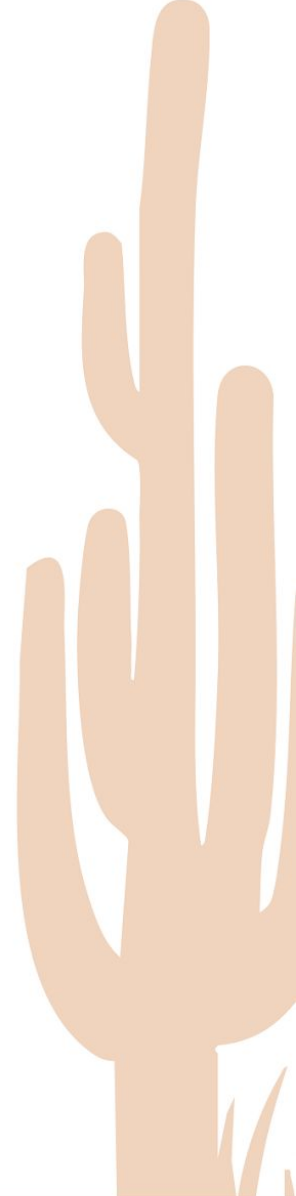




AGENDA D1

Approval of Minutes

The Board will review and may consider action to approve the meeting minutes from March 19, 2026.





AGENDA D1

Motion:

*I move to approve the the meeting minutes from
March 19, 2026 as presented.*



AGENDA-D2

Legislative Update

(Presenter: Brittany Hudson, Legislative Liaison)





AGENDA-D3

Southwest Region Highlights

(Presenter: Athena Sparks, South Region
Operations Manager)





Arizona State Parks Board Presentation | April 16, 2025

**Born & Raised in the
Southern Region — Ideas
born here, built together,
and shared freely.**



WELCOME

The Southern Region Parks Incubator

"Pride without ownership."

What starts here is designed to move.

We believe the best ideas are born through participation and collaboration. Our culture is built on "Pride without ownership" — we build together, grow together, and share freely with the entire agency.

Participatory Design

Every voice shapes the solution — staff at all levels contribute to what we build.

Team Solutions

Problems are solved collectively, drawing on regional expertise and lived experience.

Southern Region Portfolio & Pathway

Three programs, one shared pathway for the agency.



Operations

- Ranger Exchange Program
- Innovation Hub
- Boneyard
- Terrain Hopper SOP
- Past Perfect Curation



Readiness & Training

- EMT Leadership and Expansion
- Certified Interpretive Guide Training
- Southern Arizona Workforce Leadership Academy
- Past Perfect Curation Solution



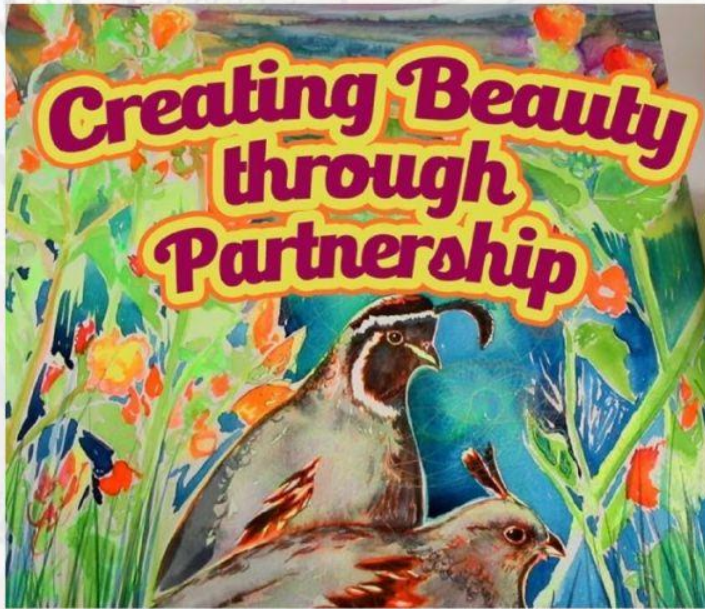
Inclusion & Agency Leadership

- Oracle Artist in Residence
- Catalina Youth Detention Live Desert Animals Program
- JEDI (justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Training
- AZ250 Program Coordination
- All Employee Conferences Content & Ranger Games



Regional Programs & Initiatives

Rooted Here, Reaching Further



Artist in Resident Program - Oracle State Park — Award of Distinction for "Art in Public Places" Initiative.



Live Wildlife Program/Juvenile Corrections Outreach — recognized by Governor Katie Hobbs for Improving Education in Arizona!



Picacho Peak Cultural Partnership - Partnership with Gila River Indian Community

Agency Initiatives

Rooted Here, Reaching Further



PastPerfect Curation

Replacing Excel with PastPerfect museum software — standardizing collection curation across the entire agency.



The Boneyard

One park's surplus is another park's solution — repurposing and redistributing equipment agency-wide.



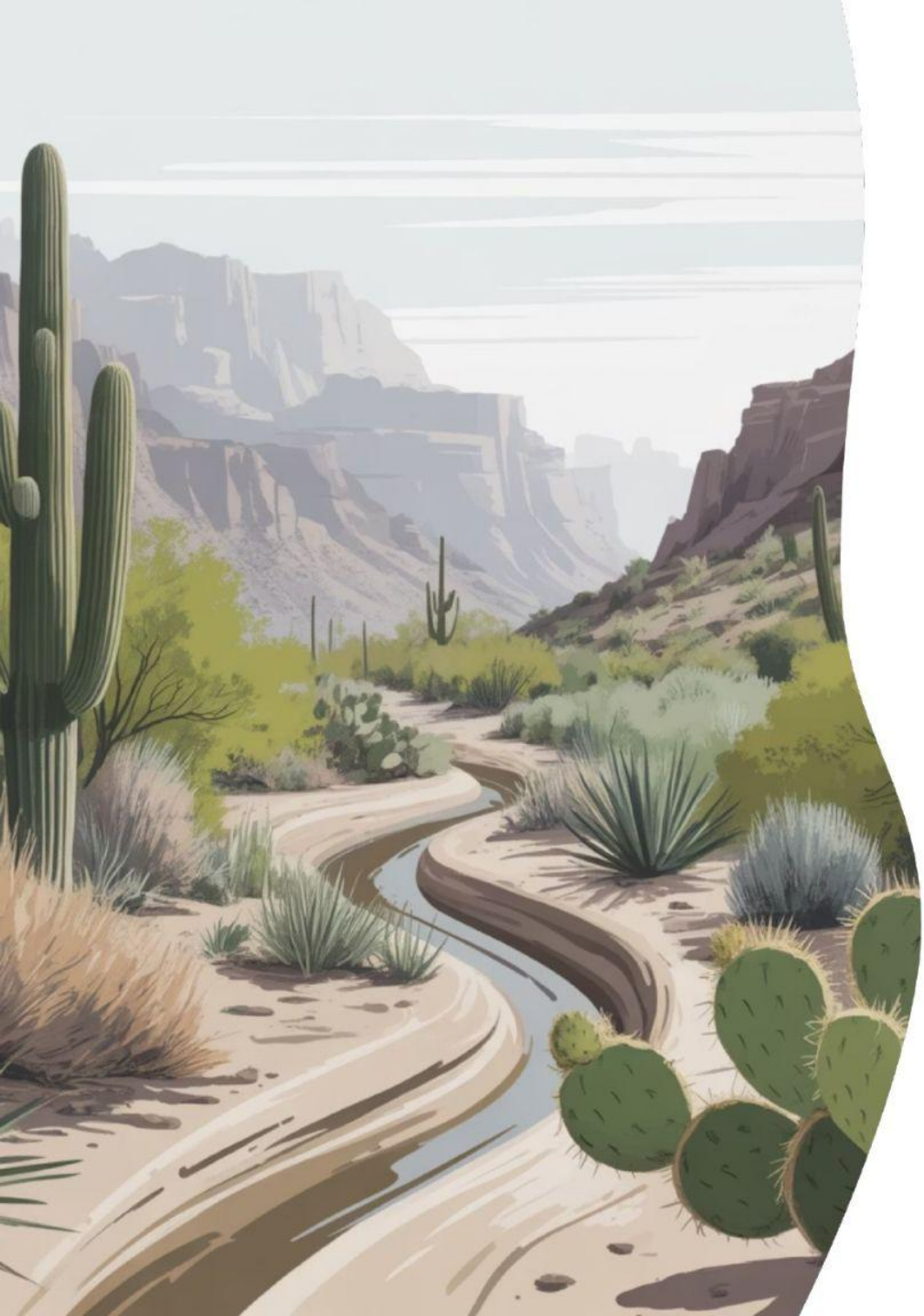
Innovation Hub

A space for testing new ideas, piloting programs, and sharing what works across the Southern Region and beyond.



Ranger Exchange

Cross-park ranger exchanges building shared knowledge, relationships, and regional capacity.



ACCESS

Access — Physical & Cultural

True access requires both physical mobility and cultural resonance.

Physical Access



We drafted the Terrain Hopper SOPs right here in the South — so people who couldn't get out there before, now can. That's not a policy win. That's a person on a trail they've never been on.

Cultural Access

Expanding who sees themselves in the story of our parks. Cultural resonance means every visitor can find themselves reflected in the land, the history, and the people who have called this place home across generations.

DEEP HISTORY

Picacho Peak State Park

For too long, a single dot has eclipsed the whole timeline. One skirmish doesn't get to define this land's story.

Time Immemorial

Deep-time stewardship, sophisticated agricultural systems, and the living culture of the Akimel O'odham (People of the River) and Pee-Posh (Maricopa) peoples.

Today

The expanded story honors the enduring presence and traditional homelands of the Gila River region — and the people still here today.



The Picacho Peak Cultural Partnership — built with the Gila River Indian Community and Sunbird Enterprises — includes a Three-Park Cultural Running Series, Youth Wildlife & Environmental Education, and Community Camping Initiative.

PARTNERSHIP

Picacho Peak Cultural Partnership

Built with the Gila River Indian Community and Sunbird Enterprises — a model for what community-centered park programming looks like in practice.



Three-Park Cultural Running Series

A celebration of Indigenous running traditions connecting communities across the region.



Youth Wildlife & Environmental Education

Hands-on learning that connects young people to the land and the communities that have stewarded it.



Native Curated Family Campout

Lowering barriers and opening the park overnight experience to communities who haven't always seen themselves there.

ORACLE STATE PARK

Historical Grounding in Place

We're not just programming here anymore — we're preserving. The trail becomes literal.

Stabilize Structures — reduce ongoing maintenance costs while keeping future rehabilitation options open.

Accessible Connection — a continuous path linking the Main Ranch Building, Brother's Cottage, and Sister's Cottage.

Preservation for Interpretation — opening the cottages to guided and self-guided tours.

Stabilize. Connect. Open. That's the whole plan — and it's already moving.



The Vision for Kannally Ranch



Main Ranch Building

The anchor of the campus — stabilized and reopened to visitors.

Sister's Cottage

Preserved for interpretive programming and self-guided exploration.

Brother's Cottage

Connected via the new accessible interpretive trail.

New Accessible Interpretive Trail

A continuous path that ties the entire campus together.

INNOVATION

The Brothers Cottage

Where salvaged architecture becomes living interpretation.

OBJECTIVE

Revitalize the long-unused Kannally cottages — weaving them back into the living story of the ranch. Transform them into a dynamic interpretive space that preserves their legacy, broadens accessibility, and creates new opportunities for public engagement.

An ADA-accessible interpretive trail — with 2-3 designated parking spaces — guides visitors from arrival along the Sisters Cottage, revitalized to highlight its historic character. The path continues to the Brothers Cottage, selectively demolished and transformed into an open interpretive zone. A second phase may extend the trail to the existing corral trail, weaving history, accessibility, and engagement into one unified experience.

Phase 2 — Extension to the existing corral interpretive trail: history, accessibility, and engagement unified.



Brother

Tubac Presidio Operating Hybrid Model

ASPT role in supporting park operations and long-term transition

1

2

Existing IGA with Santa Cruz County remains in place (to be amended)

Friends of Tubac continue leading day-to-day operations as the foundation of the park's ongoing success

3

4

ASPT transitions in a Park Manager II (agency-funded, administratively supervised, coordinated daily with Friends)

Regional Operations Manager serves as primary point of contact

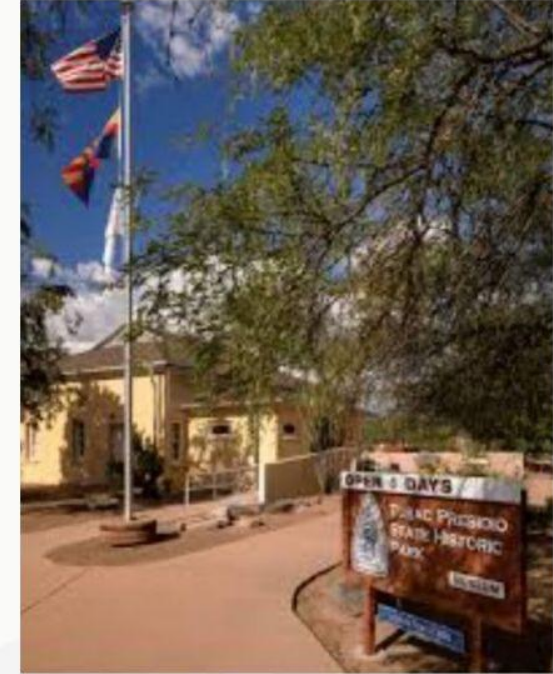
5

6

Regional Operations Manager will join the Friends team to learn and support current operations onsite.

Regional Manager and incoming Park Manager work in tandem with FOTTPAM to support operations, coordination, and a smooth transition

7



The Future...



Invest in People & Systems

Support the people and systems that help us grow — across every park, every partnership, every lane of the pathway.



Honor Deep History

Honor the deep history and the cultures still alive today — centering the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples in the story of this land.



Build Spaces for Everyone

Build spaces where everybody can find themselves in the story — including an innovative hybrid sustainability solution at Tubac Historic State Park.



Power Heritage with Sustainability

At Tubac Historic State Park, a hybrid sustainability solution blends modern efficiency with careful stewardship — reducing environmental impact while protecting the character of the place for future generations.





CREDITS

This Work Was Born Here

"This work was born here."

Southern Region Team

- **Chelsea Ballard, Assistant Manager**
- **Kristen Brown, Park Manager**
- **Sinda Sutton, Park Manager**
- **Sarah Bergquist, Assistant Manager**
- **Britini Criglow, Park Ranger**
- **Lydia McBee Reed, Park Ranger Senior**
- **George Graham, Assistant Manager**
- **Steve Haas, Park Manager**
- **Laura Maddox, Assistant Manager**
- **Ethan Finch, Assistant Manager**
- **Oscar Sanchez, Assistant Manager**
- **Colt Alford, Park Manager**
- **Erica Way, Park Manager**
- **Devin Dreyer, CS Manager**
- **Hailey Maloney, Park Ranger Senior**
- **Amy Schnoes, Park Manager**
- **Curtis Leslie, Park Manager**
- **Fred Viste, Park Manager**

Partners & Friends

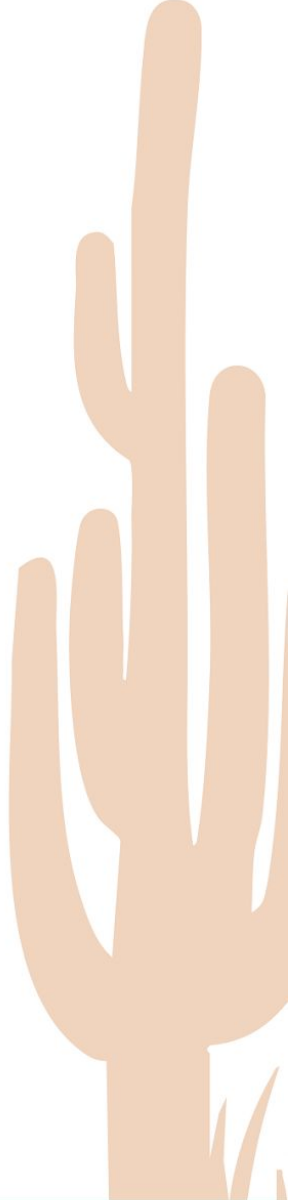
- **Friends of the San Rafael Valley**
- **Friends of Catalina**
- **Friends of Oracle**
- **Ginger Sunbird, Gila River Indian Community**

Thank you for your commitment, your presence, and your continued partnership in this work.



AGENDA-D4

**Tubac Presidio Historical State Park
History and Future Management.
(Presenter: Mary Dahl, and Tom Walsh)**

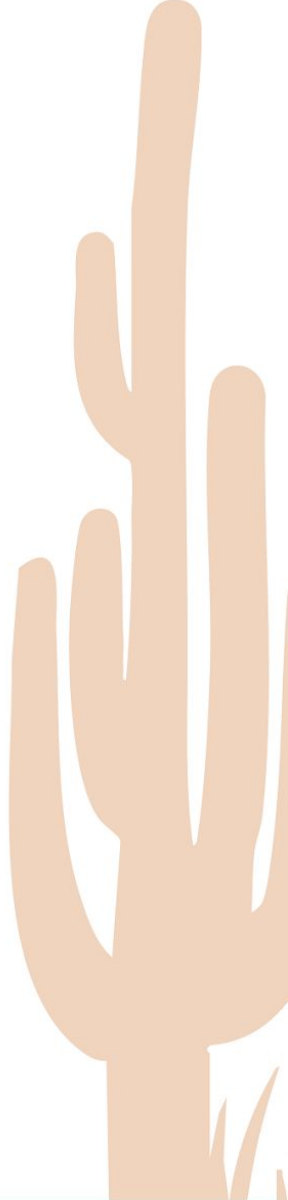





AGENDA-D4

Motion:

I move that the Board direct staff to work with Friends of the Tubac Presidio and Museum and Santa Cruz County to eventually transfer operations of Tubac Presidio Historical State Park back to ASPT.



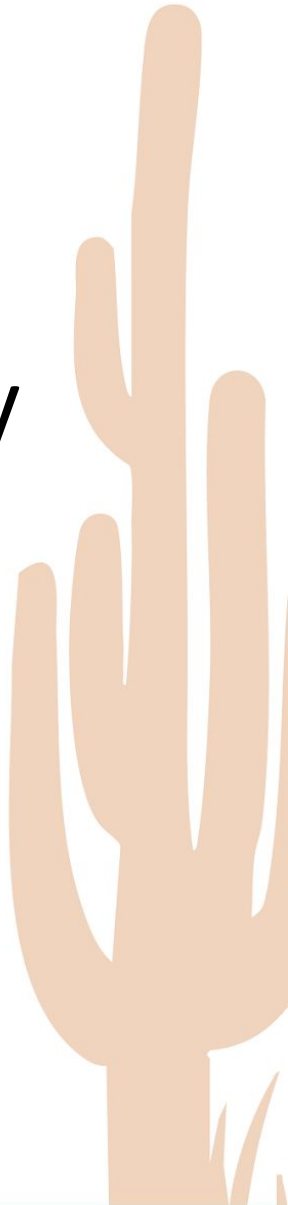
AGENDA-D5

Reptiles on the Road Program. (Presenter: George Graham, Assistant Park Manager Catalina State Park)



FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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



AGENDA – F

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS

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

AGENDA – F

Annual State Employee Charity Contribution Hikes



AGENDA – F

Windsor Beach Blonde release at Lake Havasu State Park after a shoreline cleanup with Historic Brewing Co and College Street Brewing



AGENDA – F

San Rafael Arizona 250 event on April 11



AGENDA – F

Social media retreat for rangers April 14-15

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR RETREAT

📅 April 14-15, 2026

📍 Rockin' River Ranch State Park

See You Soon!



Looking Ahead

- TerrainHopper launch event on May 1 at Rockin' River Ranch State Park
- Great American State Fair participation with Shannon Benjamin from Riordan Mansion State Historic Park and Curtis Leslie from Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park

AGENDA – G

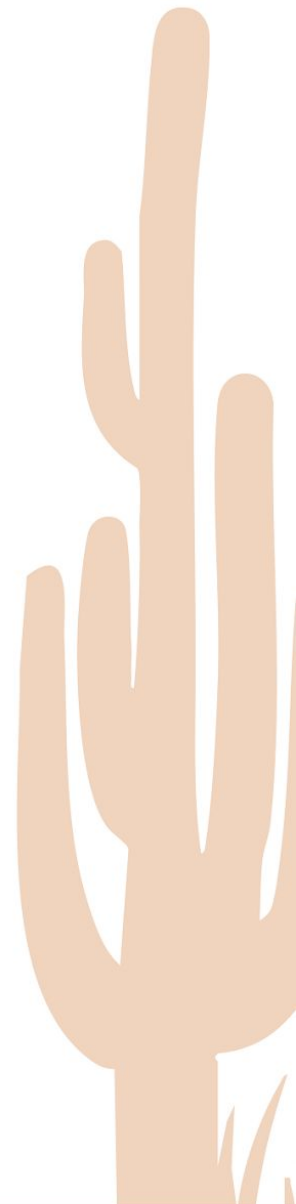
CURRENT EVENTS

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
June 18, 2026	Central Office
September 17, 2026	Rockin River Ranch State Park
December 17, 2026	Central Office



Thank You!

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