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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of
THE ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)
State Trail System Subcommittee (STSS)
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

Notice is hereby given pursuant to A.R.S. §41-511.22 to members of the Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) and the general public that the State Trails System Subcommittee will hold a meeting open to the public on **July 17th, 2014, at Arizona State Parks, 1300 W. Washington St, 2nd Floor, Phoenix, Arizona at 2:00 pm. Attendance at this meeting is available via teleconference by calling 1.877.820.7831 and entering the participant passcode 522515.** Items on the Agenda may be discussed out of order, unless they have been specifically set for a time certain. Public comment will be taken. The Committee will discuss and may take action on the following matters:

AGENDA

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

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.**
- B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, GUESTS, AND STAFF.**
- C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC** – The Chair will recognize those wishing to address the Committee. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization and the time allotted by the Chair. Action taken as a result of acknowledgment of comments and suggestions from the public will be limited to directing staff to study or reschedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.
- D. DISCUSSION** - The subcommittee will discuss the following:
 1. The Committee has been reviewing the STS Nomination form to be adapted to the new trail system criteria. At the July 11th meeting the subcommittee worked through some of the nominating criteria, identified five categories of trails (recreation, historic/cultural, interpretive, scenic, water, trail systems), and proposed a name for the new system, "Arizona Premier Trails". Members were asked to provide more specific definitions for the categories. The following attachments will be discussed:

Attachment A - Premier Trail List Criteria and Process – Kesselman

1-2

Attachment B - Recreation Trails Definition – Slay/Cox

- 3

Attachment C - Scenic Trail Definition – Kesselman

- 4

Attachment D - Trails Systems Definition – Slay/Cox

- 5

Attachment E – Trails Nomination Form

- 6-16

Suggestions regarding Historical/Cultural trails will be provided at the meeting by Bill Gibson. Suggestions regarding Water trails will be provided at the meeting by Jackie Keller.

- E. **NEXT MEETING DATE** – The STS Subcommittee will schedule dates to meet the November deadline.

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

A copy of this agenda and any background material provided to ASCOT Members is available for public inspection at Arizona State Parks, 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Robert Baldwin at 602-542-7130.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Arizona State Parks does not discriminate on the basis of a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the State Parks office at (602) 542-4174; or TTY (602) 542-4174. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

for  7-15-14
Dawn Collins, Chief of Resources & Public Programs, Arizona State Parks

Posted at: Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington, 1st Floor, Phoenix, Arizona
And at: <http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.html>

Proposed Premier Trail List Process

1. How many trails should be listed initially? 25-50. Let's see how many nomination forms are received. I suggest we start with the top 25. We can always increase it to 50 the next year. Having more than 50 trails makes the list less exclusive and not the **Premier** list we are trying to develop. By making it up to 50, it gives us the opportunity to showcase a wide variety of specialty trails as listed in our categories as well as great general recreation trails.
2. Do we add more each year if nominations are submitted? I suggest we add up to 10-20 new trails each year. At the same time we delete the same number of trails each year. We only publish a maximum of 50 trails as the Premier Trails for that year. The ones deleted are kept on a list of previous Premier trails. We don't want this list to balloon into 800 trails as in the past. This should be a kept very small and exclusive or we begin to lose its purpose, credibility and value.
3. No trail can remain of the list for more than 2 years in a row. It then must be deleted and will be eligible for reconsideration in 2 years. This criteria attempts to keep the list fresh and gives many worthy trails a chance to be listed. It also will hopefully encourage people to come back each year to the site to see what is new. I offer one exception to the above. We have up to approximately 5 permanent trails that remain on the list each year. These would be iconic trails like the Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon, Camelback in Scottsdale and the Humphrey's Peak Trail in Flagstaff. Mt. Humphreys is the 12th highest peak in the nation. I would additionally add the National Recreation Scenic and Historic Trails in Arizona. These trails attract tourists and are truly unique to Arizona.
4. The list of the Premier Trails for any given year should have some representation of each category of trails. We would want a diversity of Hiking, Biking and Equestrian trails and should try to have trails from around all areas in the State.
5. Nominations for trails to be included on this list should be solicited from all the Federal, State, County and Municipal land managers in the State. For the first year, we would create a comprehensive introductory letter explaining the background, value and use of the Premier list and nomination process. We could then solicit nominations from the approximately 50 land managers for the 800+/- trails that are currently on our State Trail System. The nominations must be for one of the 800 built trails. This gives them a benefit for already being in the STS. The nominating review committee would also then have perhaps fewer nominations the first year allowing them to gain some experience in working thru the nomination process. Thereafter, members of the public may nominate a trail with the land manager's written approval.
6. The Nominating Committee would be made up of between 5-7 members from ASCOT, Bob Baldwin or his successor and Katie Valero's successor. We might consider having members from the public also on the committee representing the hiking, biking, equestrian and water interests.
7. A rating system by points or some other evaluation method needs to be developed by our committee as a whole or by a small sub-committee of our committee. This would be used to help determine what trails get on the list and which are deleted in a given year. I believe the evaluation process needs to have both an objective and subjective component.

8. Timelines for the nominations process would be established each year.
9. The Premier Trail list should be listed on the State Parks website and trails app with all the details of each trail. It can be sent to as many publications, websites, State, County and local tourist bureaus, chamber of commerce's or any other appropriate entity that wants to post it.

Submitted by:

Rick Kesselman
July 14, 2014

Recreation Trails

I was trying to come up with the difference between scenic and recreation trails. On the national level, "National Scenic Trails are extended trails that provide maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the various qualities - scenic, historical, natural and cultural - of the areas they pass through." Protection of the areas they pass through and particular natural beauty are mentioned.

National Recreation trails provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses.

Taking a page out of Rick's book, the definition of recreation is:

1. Some pastime, agreeable exercise or the like
2. A pastime, diversion, exercise or other resource affording relaxation or enjoyment.

The definition of scenic is:

1. Of or pertaining to natural scenery
2. Having pleasing or beautiful scenery

I believe that Items 1 and 2 under Recreation Trail in the original criteria are fine, just taking out the line about trails that serve a small population are not eligible as follows:

1. The trail must provide day-use or extended trail opportunities for any of a variety of non-motorized outdoor recreation activities, including but not limited to hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, backpacking, hiking or riding with pack stock, or cross-country skiing.
2. The trail must be of sufficient length to provide appropriate access to and facilitate the activities that are the basis for designation.

I do agree that in a way, all trails are recreational. All trails get you moving and you're always looking at something. I would say the difference is that recreation trails are more about the activity or user enjoyment and scenic trails are more about the destination and the view. The design and layout of recreational trails should lend themselves to the users' activities.

Laddie's comments:

I think that your version of and comments for Rec trails criteria are right on. However, what about adding this sentence to your #1 criteria: *"The more a trail's capacity to accommodate such multi-usage the more appropriate it is to be classified as a Recreational Trail"*.

My somewhat convoluted thinking behind this is that there are, for example, several good hiking / backpacking trails that, for at least a good portion of their trace, are not really good equestrian or mountain biking trails. This could be because of their general construction, i.e. steepness of grade overall, topography through which the trail goes, its route through a wilderness area etc.

I agree with Laddie that this is a good point.

Premier Trail Scenic Category

Every trail has a scenic component. Trails that will qualify for this category must have a natural scenery far beyond that found on the vast majority of trails. The Scenic Quality Rating Criteria will consider the following:

1. Landform: Topography becomes more interesting as it gets steeper or more massive, or more severely or universally sculptured. Steep canyons, mesas, butts, interesting erosional patterns or a variety of size and shape of landforms.
2. Vegetation: Consideration is given to the variety of patterns, forms, colors and textures created by plant life.
3. Water: This ingredient adds movement or serenity to a scene.
4. Color: The overall colors of the basic components of the landscape, (e.g., soil, rock, vegetation, etc.) add variety contrast and harmony to the scene.
5. Scarcity: This factor gives an opportunity to give added importance to one or all of the scenic features that are unique, rare, one of a kind or very memorable.

Submitted by:

Rick Kesselman
July 14, 2014

Trails Systems

We accidentally left this out of the categories, but I think it is an important one. For example, nominations in this category could be from areas such as the White Mountains, Sedona or Scottsdale that have excellent trails systems.

The current criteria for trails systems are:

1. A trail system must list each individual trail at the time of nomination. When additional trails are added to the system, an agency must amend their nomination to include the additional trails.
2. A least 80% of the system nomination must satisfy the relevant criteria.

Jackie's comments from the last subcommittee meeting read: "Trail systems must not have any broken segments; all trails within the system must have connectivity to other trails and access points."

**CRITERIA FOR NOMINATING TRAILS
INTO THE
ARIZONA PREMIER TRAILS**

I. PURPOSE

Arizona Premier Trails is a system of trails offering a diversity of quality non-motorized trails that inspire people to experience the State's magnificent outdoor environment and cultural history.

Arizona Premier Trails have been established to recognize and promote non-motorized trails that are of special significance to both Arizona's residents and visitors. Trails offer a wide variety of outdoor opportunities. To provide for recognition of various types of trails, trail designations are categorized as Recreation, Interpretive, Historic/Cultural, Scenic, and Water trails. The integrity of the managing agency's trail system and its management will not be changed by designation of the nominated trail as part of the State Trails System.

Arizona Premier Trails nomination and designation process is guided by the criteria, requirements, and procedures listed below. A complete nomination must include all requested information relating to the general and specific nomination criteria.

II. GENERAL NOMINATION CRITERIA

(should include general info for all types of trails – watch for duplicates)

1. Nominations may be submitted for existing trails.
2. Nominated trails must be publicly owned or managed or available to the public.
3. Trails that allow motorized recreational trail use are not eligible for the Arizona Premier Trails.
4. Anyone may submit a nomination. However, documented concurrence of the involved landowner(s) and/or managing agency(s) must be provided with each nomination.
5. The nominated trail must be identified on an accurate geo-referenced map or maps that show its verified location.
6. Global Positioning System (GPS) locations (latitude and longitude) of all trailheads (or put-in, put-out points for water trails) must be provided.
7. Trails must be a minimum of one mile in length unless it demonstrates unique characteristics (i.e. interpretation, ADA, water trails etc).
8. The nomination and designation must be for the entire length of the specific single trail involved as established by the managing agency's official documentation.
9. The trail or trail segments must be constructed, signed, and maintained to standards as set by the managing agency(s).
10. The theme and general methods of interpretation being utilized must be identified.
11. The trail must be during a majority of the season.
12. The managing agency and/or land owner must have the capability to adequately serve the public and maintain any related facilities for example access, sanitation, parking, etc.

13. The trail or trail segments must be constructed, signed, and maintained to standards as set by the managing agency(s).

III. SPECIFIC NOMINATION CRITERIA BY TRAIL CATEGORY

A. U.S. NATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

1. Trails in Arizona that are included in the U.S. National Trail System will be included as Arizona Premier Trails upon consent of the trail managers.

B. RECREATION TRAIL (General info moved to Item II)

1. The trail must provide day-use or extended trail opportunities for any of a variety of non-motorized outdoor recreation activities, including but not limited to hiking, horseback riding or riding with pack stock, bicycling, backpacking, hiking or riding with pack stock, or cross-country skiing.
2. The trail must be of sufficient length to provide appropriate access to and facilitate the activities that are the basis for designation as a recreation trail.
3. Recreation trails are more about the activity or user enjoyment and designed to lend themselves to the users' preferred activities.
4. Recreational trails have the greatest capacity to accommodate multiple uses to the satisfaction of all users.

C. SCENIC TRAIL (General info moved to Item II)

Trails that will qualify for this category must have a natural scenery far beyond that found on the vast majority of trails. The Scenic Quality Rating Criteria will consider the following:

1. Landform: Topography becomes more interesting as it gets steeper or more massive, or more severely or universally sculptured. Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, interesting erosional patterns or a variety of size and shape of landforms.
2. Vegetation: Consideration is given to the variety of patterns, forms, colors and textures created by plant life.
3. Water: This ingredient adds movement or serenity to a scene.
4. Color: The overall colors of the basic components of the landscape, (e.g., soil, rock, vegetation, etc.) add variety contrast and harmony to the scene.
5. Scarcity: This factor gives an opportunity to give added importance to one or all of the scenic features that are unique, rare, one of a kind or very memorable.

D. INTERPRETIVE TRAIL (should resemble historic/cultural guidelines as to presentation of information)

General info moved to Item II.

C. HISTORIC/CULTURAL TRAIL (should resemble interpretive guidelines as to presentation of information)

Discernible Historic Trail

1. The trail must provide day-use or extended trail opportunities for outdoor trail activities.
2. The description of the trail must be specific enough to assist in identifying and protecting historic routes, remnants, and artifacts for public knowledge and enjoyment.
3. Use of the trail must have had an effect on Arizona's culture with respect to a broad aspect of the State's historic or prehistoric past, such as trade, commerce, migration and settlement.
4. Nomination documentation must include notification record of landowners along the route.
5. Information should be provided to the user of the trail's historic importance and how to protect the resource and its context while enjoying the site.
6. Identify a contact person, agency or organization that will act as curator or steward of trail's history.

Non-Discernible Historic Trail

1. The trail need not currently exist as a discernible trail, but must be sufficiently known to allow for documentation and evaluation.
2. The description of the trail must be specific enough to assist in identifying and protecting historic routes, remnants and artifacts.
3. Use of the trail must have had an effect on Arizona's culture with respect to a broad aspect of the State's historic or prehistoric past, such as trade, commerce, migration and settlement.
4. There must be a contact person, agency or organization that will act as curator or steward of trail's history.

D. WATER TRAIL

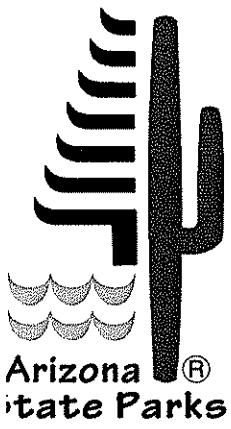
1. Paddle trails must have a designated section of a waterway with designated put-in and put-out access points.
2. Paddle trails must be on a waterway, or designated section of a waterway, that does not allow motorized traffic.

E. TRAIL SYSTEMS

1. A trail system must list each individual trail at the time of nomination. When additional trails are added to the system, an agency must amend their nomination to include the additional trails. (do you want to allow this? Kind of a hassle.)
2. A least 80% of the system nomination must satisfy the relevant criteria.
3. Trail systems must not have any broken segments; all trails within the system must have connectivity to other trails and access points.

IV. DESIGNATION AS AN ARIZONA PREMIER TRAIL

1. All nominations will be reviewed by the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) for completeness, appropriateness, and other factors such as general public safety.
2. The ASCOT recommendation will be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for final approval of the nominated.



Arizona Premier Trails Nomination Form

FOR NONMOTORIZED TRAILS

Please Note: *Nominations must be received (NOT POSTMARKED) by:*

5:00 p.m. Friday, Sept. x, 201x

Please fill out completely **AND SEND COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM ALONG WITH SIX (6) COPIES OF COMPLETE NOMINATION AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS TO THE ADDRESS ON PAGE TEN.** Much of the information you provide will appear in the State Trails Guide. Be sure to answer questions completely.

Trail name and/or number: _____

Provide an overall description the trail (uses, location, trail highlights including general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items) This description will be used in the Arizona State Trails Guide – you should write the description to be interesting to potential trail users. *Change to “description will be used on the website and in all publications regarding the State Trails System” or whatever it should be when we’re done with this.*

Part of Arizona Trail? Yes No *Still relevant?*

Trail is: Existing Proposed/Planned

Proposed trails will only be considered if the planning process for the trail has been completed and is ready to start construction in the near future.

If trail is proposed, outline the expected timeframe for beginning construction
Take out – no more proposed accepted.

Contact information that will be included in the State Trails Guide and given to public inquiries about this trail: *Take out State Trails Guide – change to whatever our new system is.*

Managing agency : _____

Address: _____

Phone () _____

Web address (for users to find more information) _____

Contact information that will be used by Arizona State Parks regarding this nomination:

Contact Name:

Managing agency : _____

Address (if different than above): _____

Phone () _____ FAX () _____

E-mail address _____

Are motor vehicles allowed for maintenance or emergency purposes?

Yes No

Is this trail open for recreational motorized trail use at any time?

Yes No (if the answer is yes, the trail is not eligible for inclusion into the State Trails System)

If you answered yes to either question above, please describe conditions:

Allowable Trail uses: Hiking Equestrian use Mountain biking
Road bicycling X-country skiing Pack animal Boating/Floating
Other: _____

Mileage: _____ Existing _____ Proposed

Layout: Loop trail One-way trail

3) Trail type (see definitions listed on page 1): Cross-state Recreation
Interpretive Historic Urban Water Trail

Trail condition (include potential hazards): _____

Describe trail signage, such as trailhead, directional, and interpretive

signage where appropriate. Describe how often the trail is inspected to ensure signage (including cairns, posts, etc.) remains intact. _____

Linkage to other trails: _____

Trailhead facilities (check all that are applicable):

Parking Restrooms Campgrounds Horse staging
Picnic Area Boat ramp Trailhead water

Nearest communities (and mileage to each): _____

Nearby public campgrounds:

Recommended seasons of use (check all that apply):

All Winter Spring Summer Fall

Include closure dates, if applicable

Accurately describe directions to trailhead or access point. Include identifiable features such as landmarks, mileposts, signage, nearest major highways, mountain ranges, rivers, historic sites, etc. **This information will be provided in the State Trails Guide so directions should be detailed enough to get recreational users to trailheads or access points.**

Elevation changes: Include high and low elevation for the trail.

Highest elevation Lowest elevation

U.S.G.S. 7.5" topographic map(s) name(s): _____

Trailhead GPS location (include all trailheads that access the trail)

If available provide GPS coordinates along the trail (can send in a digital file accompanying the nomination).

Other Maps/Info:

List any special consideration of importance to trail users (i.e. fees, hours, accessibility, cautions etc)

Is a fee required for trail use? Yes No

Is this trail ADA? Yes No

Other considerations

Briefly describe the design, construction and maintenance standards of the trail. Include tread width, shared or separate right-of-way, surfacing, erosion control measures, any special features associated with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special safety features or considerations, or water trail access points. If Arizona State Parks or members of the review Committee are unfamiliar with the trail standards/guidelines used by managing agency a copy may be requested.

Provide an accurate map of trail. The map should be of a scale appropriate to the length and type of trail. Include location of items described in **Trail Highlights** above. The attached Canelo Hills Passage map is a good example of this requirement. A 7.5" Quadrangle map may also be used or included. The map shall identify, at a minimum, the following items:

1. Map size: 8 1/2" x 11". If necessary, use more than one 8 1/2" x 11" sheet.
2. North arrow, scale, and date prepared.
3. Length of trail segment (Start to End point).
4. Identify trail/road access to trail project.
5. List any future trail/linkages planned.
6. Include photographs of either the existing trail or land where the trail will be developed.

If this trail is being nominated as a Historic Trail (per the criteria in the attached guide), please complete the following; if it is not nominated as a Historic Trail please continue on to the Authorization Statement.

Historic Trail: Discernible Non-discernible

Attach a minimum of a one-page historic narrative, along with supporting documentation. Identify a contact person, agency, or organization who will act as curator or steward of the trail's history. Include name, address, phone and fax number.

If this trail is being nominated as a paddle trail, please complete the following:

Whitewater, class of water

Quiet water

Access Points

Are there distinguished or separated access for motorized and nonmotorized craft? If yes, please indicate how the uses are separated.

Other General Evaluation Criteria

Are there seasonal closures to the waterway? If yes, explain.

Are there any known water quality issues? If yes, explain.

Are there any known hazards on the water?

All applicants must complete this section.

AUTHORIZATION STATEMENT

Photocopy this form as needed for each land owner/managing agency, and attach all forms to this application.

If more than one landowner or managing agency is involved with the trail, this statement must be completed and signed by each owner or representative and attached. Unless the managing agency or owner requests otherwise, all trails in the system are described in the Arizona State Trails Guide.

I, _____,

Name of landowner/managing agency representative

on behalf _____,

Landowner/managing agency

authorize this trail to be nominated into the Arizona State Trails System. I understand that designation to the State Trails System in no way infringes upon the management or responsibilities of this landowner or agency to operate and maintain this trail.

Signature of land owner/managing agency representative

SEND SIX (6) COMPLETE PHOTOCOPIES OF COMPLETED NOMINATION AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS WITH THIS ORIGINAL TO THE ADDRESS BELOW. DO NOT STAPLE OR BIND THE NOMINATION.

**AZ State Committee On Trails
Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
FAX: (602) 542-4180**

Canelo Hills Passage

Parker Canyon Lake to Patagonia

