

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Bryan Martyn
Executive Director



Board Members

Alan Everett, Sedona, *Chair*
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State Land Commissioner

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of
THE ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02 to members of the Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) and the general public that the ASCOT will hold a meeting open to the public on **January 16, 2015 at Arizona State Parks in the Basement Board Room located at 1300 W. Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007 beginning at 10:00 am.** Attendance at this meeting is available via teleconference by calling **1.877.820.7831** and entering the participant passcode **613038**. 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.)

Beginning at 10 am the Attorney General's Office will provide an overview of State Open Meeting Law. No ASCOT business will be discussed and no actions will be taken.

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. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Approve of Meeting Minutes from the November 1, 2014 Meeting pg 1-7**
- 2. ASCOT Will Review the Nominating Committee Recommendations for 2015 Officers –** Members of the Nominating Committee met on December 5, 2014 and nominated officers for Chair, Vice Chair, State Trail Systems Vice Chair, Education Safety and Environment Vice Chair, and Public Outreach Vice Chair. ASCOT will elect officers who will begin to serve immediately and continue serving until replaced in 2016. Other members may be appointed at this time to serve on those committees. - pg 8-9

3. **Consider Approving the 2015 State Trails Plan** – Staff recommends that ASCOT approve the 2015 Trails Plan. ASCOT recommendations will be forwarded to the Parks Board for final approval at the February 18, 2015 meeting. pg 10-12
4. **Consider Approving Premier Trails Nomination Forms and Recommend to State Parks Board for Approval** – ASCOT will approve the Premier Trails nominating forms. ASCOT recommendations will be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for final approval at their February 18, 2015 meeting. pg. 13 - 69

E. REPORTS - Committee and Staff reports may be written or verbal.

1. **Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Grant Cycle Will Be Announced** – Staff will report on the 2015 January Off-Highway Vehicle and Recreational Trails Program Grant Cycle. pg. 70 - 71
2. **ASCOT will receive an update from the Education, Safety, Environmental Fund Subcommittee (ESEF) and Discuss Possible Uses of Available Funds.** The ESEF met on October 4, 2014 to identify possible uses of the available Recreational Trails Program Education funds that must be spent by September 30, 2015. No specific plans were placed on the agenda for action after the November 1, 2014 ASCOT meeting. ASCOT had questions about possibly using some of this funding for implementing the new Premier Trail System. Since this implementation will probably not begin prior to September 30, the ESEF subcommittee will make suggestions for this funding to ASCOT. Once ASCOT approves how to spend these funds, the subcommittee will work on a plan and process for distributing these funds and bring to ASCOT's next scheduled meeting.

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Electronically Assisted Bikes (E-Bikes) and Pack Goats on Non-Motorized Trails.** ASCOT members will discuss two issues that have had an impact on some non-motorized trails. Several land managers contend that e-bikes, which have recently become a new way of accessing trails, could be considered motorized use and perhaps should not be allowed on non-motorized trails. There is also an issue of using pack goats on non-motorized trails. There have been reports that these domesticated goats carry respiratory diseases for which Big Horn Sheep have no immune system defense.

G. MEMBER'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS - ASCOT members will provide a verbal report on current activities and events of interest to the trails community and/or the status of any trail projects with which they may be involved. Members will provide factual information relating to specific events and will not propose, discuss or take any action on any matter unless specifically placed on the agenda for the next ASCOT meeting.

H. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – ASCOT will determine the dates and locations for meetings for the remainder of 2015.

April 18, 2015 – Joint meeting with Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) for RTP certification and separate ASCOT meeting at the Carnegie Library in Phoenix.

State Recreation Trails Advisory Committee at 10:00 AM.

ASCOT meeting at 1:00 PM Approve recommendations for selected non-motorized Recreational Trails grant projects and changes to RTP non-motorized grant rating criteria informed by the 2015 Trails Plan.

I. 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. For additional information, contact Mickey Rogers at (602) 542-6942.

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.

 1/2/15
Kent Ennis, Deputy Director,
Arizona State Parks

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

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ITEM D 1

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING of THE ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT) of THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

ASCOT held a meeting open to the public on November 1, 2014, at Oracle State Park, 3820 E Wildlife Dr., Oracle, Arizona 85623 beginning at 10am.

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Members present at roll call: 10 am

Craig Stevens, Back Country Horseman of Central AZ,
Laddie Cox, Representative at Large,
Rick Kesselman, Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona,
Lisa Gerdl, Representative at Large,
Linda Slay, AZ Horse Council,
Angela Villa, Representative at Large,
Connie Lane, National Forest of Arizona,
Claire Miller, City of Scottsdale,
Bernadine Wickenburg, Conservation Foundation (phone),
Laurel Arndt, Mountain Bike Association of Arizona (phone),
Nick Lund, TRACKS and chairman.
Bill Gibson, Bureau of Land Management joined on phone later.

A quorum was established.

Staff in attendance: Mickey Rogers, Grants Coordinator, Arizona State Parks

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, GUESTS, AND STAFF

Mickey Rogers, the new ASP Grants Coordinator, introduced himself to the committee, including a brief description of his background which included working for Maine State Parks for 42 years, 7 of which were spent as the Recreational Trails Program Manager.

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC –No one from public was at the meeting or on the phone.

D. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS

1. **ASCOT Will Review and Approve Minutes from the August 2, 2014 Meeting.** Approved with minor typographical errors to be corrected Vote: 12-0
2. **ASCOT Will Review the Nominating Committee Recommendation for 2015 New Members and Make a Recommendation for Parks Board Approval**

Bill Gibson, met with the Nominating Committee in September and reviewed 4 candidates. All were approved with no objections from anyone on Committee. All were excellent candidates. Bill Gibson made a motion to accept all new members: Laddie Cox seconded, all approved. New members voted in. Vote: 12-0

3. **State Trail System Subcommittee Will Update ASCOT on the Status of the Arizona Premier Trails System** – The STS Subcommittee has been meeting to develop criteria and a selection process to showcase exceptional Arizona trails. They will recommend the approval of nomination forms and correlated point systems. Their suggestions will be discussed and adopted.

Rick Kessleman discussed the process used to create this document and stated that there were a few things that needed to be discussed with ASCOT in regards to this document.

- a. *Should the Premier Trails represent all counties/areas of the state and should the Premier Trails include equal numbers in each of the categories i.e. water, historic etc.* The consensus of the committee was they all should stand on their own merits regardless of geographic area or category. Vote: 12-0
- b. *Should a National Trail that submits a request to be a Premier Trail be automatically added?* Bill Gibson stated that National Trails go through a rigorous process to be on this National list and should be automatically added. The consensus of the group was that National Trails need to compete with all other trails and not be added automatically. They should be scored on the same merits. Vote 11-1
- c. *Length of time on the Premier Trail list:* All agreed they should not be on forever and would have to reapply. Question of who would contact a sponsor when the trail would have to reapply when it was time to come off the list. Linda said State Parks should send out a yearly request for Premier trails. Most talked about 5-8 years. Laddie said it should be 5-year period to have same time period as trails plan. Consensus was 5 years to be on list until they have to reapply. Will have to discuss at future, how to contact sponsors when their trail will be dropped off list and have to reapply. Vote: 12-0
- d. *The Subcommittee made a recommendation that Land Managers would have to have a pre-submittal meeting with members of ASCOT or ASP.* All agreed should be required. Vote: 12-0

- e. *Start standard at 85 points for getting on Premier Trail?* Consensus was that they would try setting initial standard at 85 points and adjust up or down if needed and evaluate how this works for the next couple of years. Vote: 12-0

Attachment D3. A. – Criteria

Changes:

Page 40 #15. Minimum 200' buffer, what does this mean? Some trails do not have that buffer. Consensus is to delete the 200' requirement? Also what does the form mean by road when a section of trail crosses or follows a road for a certain distance? Discussion about if it should remain as is and part of the trail being on a road does not mean it cannot be a Premier Trail. Consensus was to delete question 15 from the criteria.

Page 39 # 6-Question was about points being geo-referenced on a map. Would this keep a trail from being qualified to be a Premier Trail? All agreed, this information is required as part of the criteria.

Page 39 #10—change everything to 75% from 80%

Page 40 #11—Question was asked - should we change this to best management practices instead of trail standards of the nominating agency? Consensus was to change this to BMP.

Page 40 #19—Question must have signage/wayfinding and how would this affect wilderness trails? This criteria would need to be relevant to the type of trail. Question was asked – what if there was a trail with signage at the trailhead but not on the trail. Would this mean the trail could not qualify? It would qualify but it would not score well in this category. The question will be changed to say “signage and/or wayfinding” to not confuse the land manager.

Delete #20 since it is the same as #11.

Question, should economic development be put into the criteria? The answer was it should be in special attributes and can help nominated trails score better and will not be a separate criteria.

#22—Question was are we taking out level of difficulty? Discussion was that is the first thing a new user would look for. Doesn't affect the scoring, just information. Does it apply to water trails? Yes, there are rapids and fast currents. Historic trails could be on a difficult trail so could also apply to these. The standards would be up to the land manager, not ASCOT. Will leave as is.

Page 41 Paragraph 1. Delete riding with pack stock. Will fix typo.

Section A: National Trails—change from “will be included” to “will be considered” and complete the application.

Page 43: F #1 take out “non-motorized” access since trails can accessed with a motorized vehicle.

Page 44: G. 2.change the “a” at the beginning to “At”.

Page 44: G3—would some of the trails that have broken segments be applicable. These would qualify since 75% of the trail system would be continuous.

Page 44: IV #3. Should add ‘trail’ after ‘nominated’.

Attachment D3. B. – Nomination Form

Changes to nomination form:

Page 46-allowable trail uses. Replace ‘road bikes’ with ‘mountain bikes.’ Add ‘Equestrian’ to this. All agreed. Suggested Bill and Connie look at these to make them easier to fill out from Land Manager’s point of view.

Point system: Bernadine questioned how the points would work, with different point values for each area. Some would get from 0 to maximum number of possible points depending on how they met that criteria. It is not all or nothing but sliding scale up to maximum. It is up to committee to determine scores.

What about trails that go through several jurisdictions? Are they applying for their portion only or all portions? All land managers must sign off on the nomination form if the trail goes through several land managers properties.

Question was asked - should we revisit water trails in regards to scoring and the minimum required, since some of the scoring criteria does not apply to a water trail which makes it difficult to get the required 85 points to be a Premier Trail. Rick stated it was an oversight on his part and would be adjusted to give them equal footing with land trails.

Lisa asked do we need to have a “Legendary Trail” designation”. Consensus was that it would add to National Trail criteria and follow the same procedures as all of the rest.

Committees’ next steps:

Create form letter asking for trail nominations.

Pre-meeting with staff or committee required, how will this work to guide potential sponsors to fill out the application.

Determine who and how many will be on the review committee.

Develop marketing approach to solicit applications.

Work with ASP IT to get this information on web.

E. REPORTS - May be verbal with handouts provided at the meeting.

1. Update from the Public Outreach Subcommittee (POS) and Discuss Their Goals – The POS may solicit suggestions from the entire committee.

Have only met twice. They have reviewed the Subcommittee’s responsibilities. Discussed were:

- How members want to use public outreach.
- A Google Calendar to show events around the state
- Make assignments for deadlines for projects going around the state.
- First day hikes. ASP will send information on the hikes. This has been sent out and the hikes have been posted on ASP's website.
- Two applications were considered for the American Trail award, which was the Flagstaff signage project, and the Dolan Springs trail project but the deadline had passed for submission. Claire will look at website to be ready for next award cycle.
- Bob Baldwin will send out list of projects approved this year to research for next year.
- Look at Premier Trails for next year and possible award for American Trails.
- Develop process to get information for social media for trail related events and ASP will help with template to get information out.
- Strategy for using various professional networks to get information
- Look at national data sites to help advise ASP on professional databases.
- Let ASP staff know about any National Trails Day hikes and they can help promote these hikes by March 1.
- ASP will send an outreach event template.
- Committee will research Arizona trail related conferences/workshops and work with ASCOT for collaboration.
- American Trails webinars could provide needed training. ASP needs information to send ASCOT members to conferences at least 6 months in advance. One in Tucson, first week of February would be a workshop and more to come.
- ASP will let people know about interagency workshops and get ASCOT involved with those.
- Would like recommendations for ideas for the POS subcommittee to work on from ASCOT.

Rick Kesselman stated the committee could help promote Premier Trails and could work with the Parks board and IT for ASP. POS' next meeting is November 19.

2. **ASCOT Will Receive an Update from the Education, Safety, Environmental Fund Subcommittee (ESEF) and Discuss Possible Uses of Available Funds** – The ESEF has met to identify possible uses for the \$5,100 in funds available to ASCOT. These funds were generated through registration fees for the last workshop sponsored by ASCOT. Staff has also informed ASCOT that some Recreational Trails Program Education Portion funds are available and must be spent by September 2015.

ASP staff stated there are some funds available for Safety and Environmental Education (SEE) for ASCOT, there is also \$5100 of

discretionary money from prior workshops. ASP said there was \$40,000 available from RTP SEE. Question was does ASCOT want to incorporate with other money for one project or keep money to put on workshops.

At this time, the Subcommittee recommends that the money not be committed until they find out how much is need for putting Premier Trails on-line and publicizing the information.

POS stated funds could go to signage related to safety for existing trails and the \$5100 could be put toward to website/IT work for Premier Trails. Are there strings on the \$40,000? This money can be used for a website as long as it relates to trails. Committee wants to obligate the money right away. Who is responsible for carrying the cost of the web for the Premier Trails? ASCOT members suggested they hold off until after the January meeting. Suggested a special ASCOT meeting first of the December. This did not happen.

- 3. Update on the 2015 State Trails Plan** – Staff will provide an update on the status of the 2015 State Trails Plan.

Draft is complete. It has been uploaded online and have 30 days for comments, which will be incorporated into a new draft. It is on the Arizona State Parks website.

- 4. Staff Will Provide a Verbal Update on State Parks Board Action on ASCOT Items** – The State Parks Board has not reviewed any ASCOT items since the last ASCOT meeting.

F. OPEN FORUM

1. ASCOT members will report on current events and/or recent experiences of interest to the trails community and/or the status of any trail projects with which they may be involved. Action will be limited to selecting individuals to do further research on the issue and directing staff to include the item on a future agenda for appropriate action. *Laddie gave a talk about the three years he was on the committee and how much it has meant to him. Helped build the Arizona trail. Urge ASCOT to talk about important issues. Hopefully to ensure the next generation still has the great benefits of the trails we build now. Critical to get this generation out on the trails. ASCOT thanked Laddie for all of his service and help with moving the committee forward.*

Rick Kesselman---Anthem are getting volunteers who are adopting Maricopa County trail sections of 3-mile lengths. December 6, they have a Trail Day.

Lisa Gerdl—anniversary of the Tucson territory.

Linda Slay-Black Canyon trails were cleared.

Connie Lane—Forest service is getting into teaching (Children Forest Trails) kids and trail building. Effort from National office and trying to get ASP involved with the program for educational opportunity.

Nick Lund—annual mountain bike event was recently held. Had over 600 registered riders with all sorts of rides. Include IMBA ride for kids and 50 children registered.

January meeting: January 30th, has been changed to January 16th. 10 am at Arizona State Parks.

G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A January date needs to be selected to review the trails plan and finalize state trails plan procedures.

H. ADJOURNMENT 12:50

Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT)

Action Item Agenda Item D2



Title: ASCOT Will Review the Nominating Committee Recommendations for 2015 Officers

Staff Lead: Mickey Rogers, Grants Coordinator

Date: January 16, 2015

Recommended Motion(s):

I move that Nick Lund remain ASCOT Chair

I move that ASCOT appoint _____ as First Vice Chair of ASCOT

I move that ASCOT appoint _____ as State Trails System Subcommittee Vice Chair

I move that ASCOT appoint Linda Slay for Public Outreach Subcommittee Vice Chair

I move that ASCOT appoint _____ for Education, Safety and Environment Fund Vice Chair

Status to Date:

The Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) advises the Arizona State Parks Board on planning, development, funding, maintenance and promotion of non-motorized trails in Arizona. ASCOT Bylaws Section VI. – Subcommittees and Task Forces require the Chair to select a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members who will report to the Executive Board and ASCOT as needed to: 1) present a slate of officers for the annual election, and 2) recruit and recommend ASCOT nominees to be appointed by the State Parks Board.

The ASCOT Nominating Committee met on December 5, 2014 and reviewed the current 2015 ASCOT Roster in order to make this recommendation consistent with the current goals of the Committee (Bylaws Section IV – Officers). Members of the Nominating Committee may comment on the nominations or selection process.

The ASCOT Bylaws Section IV – Officers require specific duties from the Chair, Vice Chair, and Subcommittee Vice Chair that make up the Executive Board of ASCOT. These duties include:

1. Chair will:

- Call for and preside at all meetings of ASCOT and the Executive Board;
- Coordinate agenda with staff;
- Present the items of business on the agenda;
- Conduct meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order;
- May deviate from the announced agenda if properly noticed;
- Preserve order and decorum and insure that speakers are recognized for the record and comments are eligible for recording purposes; and
- Represent ASCOT to the Board and in other official capacities.

Nominee: Nick Lund

Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT)

Action Item Agenda Item D2

2. First Vice Chair - If the Chair resigns or is otherwise unable to perform the duties of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform all duties of the Chair until a new Chair is elected. There is no order of succession from the Vice Chair to Chair.
Nominees for this position are: Linda Slay and Patrick Kell
Vote results:

3. State Trails System Vice Chair -supports the State Trails System nomination process, monitoring process and related grant activities.
Nominees for this position are: Bill Gibson and Rick Kessleman
Vote results:

4. Public Outreach Vice Chair - coordinates workshops and conferences, supports National Trails Day, and disseminates important trail information.
Nominee: Linda Slay

5. Education, Safety and Environment Fund Vice Chair – [NEED DESCRIPTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE HERE]
Nominees: Lisa Gerdl and Matthew Nelson
Vote results:

Time Frame:

ASCOT will elect officers for Chair, Vice Chair, State Trails System Vice Chair, Education, Safety and Environment Vice Chair, and Public Outreach Vice Chair who will begin to serve immediately and continue serving until 2016. Other members may be appointed at this time to serve on those subcommittees.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

**Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT)
Action Report
Agenda Item #: D3**



Title: Consider Approving the 2015 Trails Plan
Lead: Cassandra Castellanos,
Staff: Resources and Public Programs Planner
Date: January 15, 2015

Recommended Motion:

I move to approve the 2015 Trails Plan and recommend the Arizona State Parks Board adopt the plan at their February 18, 2015 meeting.

Status to Date:

ARS § 41-511.22 and ARS § 41-511.04 (20) state that Arizona State Parks will complete a trail plan every five years. In 2013, Arizona State Parks and Arizona State University's School of Community Resources and Development (SCRD) entered into an agreement to conduct user surveys of motorized and non-motorized trails in the state of Arizona with four different sample populations. The different aspects of the survey process are listed below.

In late 2013 and early 2014 a telephonic stratified random sample survey of 4,818 Arizona households was conducted. In addition, 597 invitations were sent to targeted users of motorized and non-motorized trails in November 2013. Two hundred targeted user surveys were also completed. In addition, 1,703 surveys were completed by the general public through a link on the Arizona State Parks website. Finally, 140 Land Manager surveys were received varying in their levels of completeness.

Beginning on October 17, 2014 a draft of the 2015 Trails Plan was available for public comment for 30 days. The draft was available on the State Parks website (http://azstateparks.com/trails/downloads/2015_AZTrailsPlan_DRAFT_102214_PC.pdf). In addition, the document was sent to advisory committee's, partners, and professional networks. A total of 11 comments were received from federal and state agencies, members of committees, associations and clubs and members of the public and all have been addressed in the final draft of the plan. All comments and suggestions were appreciated and aided in ensuring a complete and correct final draft. Individuals who commented will receive a letter to acknowledge that their comment was addressed once the Plan has been approved by the Arizona State Parks Board.

After the analysis of survey responses and public comment, the following motorized recommendations are proposed for approval:

**Arizona State Committee on Trails Action Report
Agenda Item #: D3**

First Level Priority Motorized Recommendations
Protect Access to Trails/Acquire Land for Public Access
Maintain and Renovate Existing Trails and Routes
Provide and Install Trail/Route Signs
Establish and Designate Motorized Trails, Routes and Areas
Second Level Priority Motorized Recommendations
Develop Support Facilities
Provide Maps and Trail/Route Information
Mitigate and Restore Damage to Areas Surrounding Trails, Routes and Areas
Third Level Priority Motorized Recommendations
Provide Educational Programs
Completion of Environmental/Cultural Clearance and Compliance activities
Increase On-the-Ground Management Presence and Law Enforcement

The following non-motorized recommendations are proposed for approval:

First Level Priority Non-Motorized Trail Recommendations
Routine Maintenance of Trails
Renovation of Existing Trails and Support Facilities
Acquire Property or Easements for Trail Access
Mitigate and Restore Damage to Areas Surrounding Trails
Second Level Priority Non-Motorized Trail Recommendations
Construct New Trails
Develop Support Facilities
Provide and Install Trail Signs
Provide Educational Programs
Enforce Existing Rules and Regulations
Provide Maps and Trail Information

Specific suggested action items related to the recommendations are listed on pages 34 - 41 and 58 – 63 for motorized and non-motorized, respectively, of the 2015 Trails Plan.

After the Arizona State Parks Board adopts the 2015 Trails Plan, the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund (OHV) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant criteria and program priorities will then be revised to use the updated priorities identified in the plan.

Time Frame:

The following Advisory Committees will also approve the final 2015 Trails Plan in January 2015: the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) (1-9-15), and the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) (1-16-15). The recommendations of these two groups in combination with the AORCC recommendation will be forwarded

Arizona State Committee on Trails Action Report
Agenda Item #: D3

to the Arizona State Parks Board at the meeting on February 18, 2015. Staff expects to implement the Plan by February 28, 2015.

Following implementation, Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Fund grant criteria will be revised by April 2015 for implementation in the July motorized grant cycle and all grant cycles in the future.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Staff in the Resources and Public Programs section are responsible for the completion of mandated statewide plans. Grants staff are responsible for incorporating changes into the existing RTP & OHV Recreation Fund grant criteria

Relation to Strategic Plan:

To provide sustainable management of our natural, cultural, recreational, economic and human resources.

To provide safe, meaningful and unique experiences for our visitors, volunteers and citizens.

To document our progress through planning, analysis and research.

To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Actions:

Dr. Megha Budruk of ASU provided preliminary results for the household, public and targeted user surveys on April 17, 2014 AORCC meeting. At this time, State Recreation Trails Advisory Committee (SRTAC) was also updated on the preliminary data and progress of the Trails 2015 Plan.

Arizona State Committee on Trails Commission (ASCOT)

Action Report Agenda Item #: D4



Title: Consider Approving Premier Trails Nomination Forms and Recommend to State Parks Board For Approval
Staff Lead: Mickey Rogers, Grants Coordinator
Date: January 16, 2015

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) approve the nomination criteria and point allocation as presented by the State Trails System (STS) Subcommittee, and make a recommendation to the Arizona State Parks Board for final approval at their February 18, 2015 meeting.

Background:

The State Trails System (STS) was initiated to “identify on a statewide basis the general location and extent of significant trail routes, areas and complementary facilities.” Under the State Parks Heritage Fund legislation the STS grew to over 800 trails of questionable “significance”. In 2012, the ASCOT STS Subcommittee began a process to identify how best to manage the system. Verifying detailed information on the condition, difficulty, and location of 800+ trails from a variety of trail managers is prohibitive.

In May, 2014 the State Parks Board authorized a freeze of the nomination process for the current State Trails System and directed ASCOT to investigate the development of a new system that focuses only on *trails of special interest or significance* to Arizona’s residents and land managers.

Status to Date:

At the August 2, 2014 meeting ASCOT approved a name for the new system, *Arizona Premier Trails*, and identified the six categories for trails that will be included in the new system: 1) National Trail System, 2) Historic, 3) Interpretive, 4) Recreation, 5) Scenic, and 6) Water Trail Systems. The STS Subcommittee then began working on nomination criteria and a point system to evaluate incoming nominations. The STS Subcommittee is bringing these recommendations to ASCOT for approval.

During the November 1, 2014 meeting STS Subcommittee presented Nomination Forms to the full of ASCOT for review. Recommendations and changes from ASCOT were implemented when STS Subcommittee met at their December 10, 2015 meeting.

ASCOT must also identify a selection process that could include public participation and plans to promote the trails in the system. Once the nomination, selection, and promotion plans for the *Arizona Premier Trails* system are approved by ASCOT, they will be submitted to the State Parks Board for

Arizona State Committee on Trails Commission (ASCOT)
Action Report
Agenda Item #: D4

designation as the new state trail system that will be included in the next State Trails Plan. The current State Trails System data will be archived with minimal updating.

Time Frame/Target Date for Completion:

The plans for nomination, selection, and promotion of the Arizona Premier Trails system will be completed for review and approval by Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) and the State Parks Board in Spring 2015. Announcement of new criteria and acceptance of nominations will begin in June 2015. Nominations will be reviewed by ASCOT in September and submitted to AORCC and the State Parks Board in November for approval.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

At their May 2014 meeting the State Parks Board approved freezing the nomination process for the existing State Trail System.

Attachments:

- Attachment D4. A. – Criteria
- Attachment D4. B. – Nomination Form--National Trail
- Attachment D4. C. – Nomination Form--Historical Trail
- Attachment D4. D. – Nomination Form--Interpretive Trail
- Attachment D4. E. -- Nomination Form--Recreational Trail
- Attachment D4. F. – Nomination Form --Scenic Trail
- Attachment D4. G. – Nomination Form-- Water Trail

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATING TRAILS INTO THE ARIZONA PREMIER TRAILS

I. PURPOSE

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

Arizona Premier Trails (APT) have been established by Arizona State Parks and Arizona State Committee on Trails 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, Water/Riparian, National trails and Trail Systems. 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 Arizona Premier Trails system.

Arizona Premier Trails (APT) 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

(Includes general information for all trail types)

1. Nominations may be submitted for existing, built non-motorized trails only.
2. Nominated trails must be publicly owned or managed, and available to the public. They must be located on public lands or public easements.
3. Public access shall be provided via a public road/street or public parking area.
4. Trails that allow motorized recreational trail use are not eligible for the Arizona Premier Trails.
5. Anyone may submit a nomination. However, documented concurrence of the involved landowner(s) and/or managing agency(s) must be provided with each nomination.
6. The nominated trail must be identified on an accurate geo-referenced map or maps (including a digital data file) that show its verified location.
7. Global Positioning System (GPS) locations (latitude and longitude) of all trailheads (including put-in, put-out points for water trails) must be provided.
8. Trails must be a minimum of one mile in length unless it demonstrates unique characteristics (Le. interpretation, ADA, water trails etc).
9. 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.

10. A minimum of 75% of the entire length of trail nominated must exhibit 'unique, special characteristics' as indicated in the category criteria it is being nominated for. If it is a "system of trails" being nominated, 80% of the trails in the system need to meet the minimum 75% category criteria.
11. The trail or trail segments must be constructed, signed, and maintained to standards as set by the managing agency(s) according to current best management practices for its type of use.
12. The theme and general methods of interpretation being utilized must be identified.
13. The trail must be open for use during a majority of the season.
14. 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.).
15. Trails that ONLY serve as a connector to a trail with the APT criteria should not be allowed unless there are no other access points to the trail.
16. Loop trails do not have to have a different beginning and end point.
17. Trails must have an annual and/or weather event conditions evaluation with a committed on-going maintenance program preferably with a designated trail steward or coordinator.
18. Trails must have signage/wayfinding and preferably an emergency marker system. Signage shall provide clear directions/wayfinding and opportunities to learn about the value of Arizona's natural and cultural resources, unique environment, outdoor recreation and trail ethics.
19. Trails must be in compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws.
20. Trails must have technical, physical, and special attribute descriptions available in a public format including but not limited to:
 - a. Level of difficulty (optional)
 - b. Water availability
 - c. Shade and/or Storm protection availability
 - d. Emergency contact/availability/location
 - e. Seasonal warnings
 - f. Elevational changes/profile
 - g. Special and unique features (geological, biological, vegetative, cultural historical, pre-historical, Native American, scenic, etc.)
 - h. Location and level of access
 - i. Signage and marker system
 - j. Wildlife information
 - k. Potential hazards that may be encountered
21. There must be not less than 4 photos of the trail(s). At least one of the photos must be of the general landscape of the trail.

III. SPECIFIC NOMINATION CRITERIA BY TRAIL CATEGORY

A. U.S. NATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM AND LEGENDARY TRAILS

1. Existing, built trails in Arizona that are designated as a U.S. National Trail will be considered in the Arizona Premier Trails system upon consent of the land owner and trail manager and the submittal of a completed application.

B. RECREATION TRAIL

Trails that qualify for this category must have as its main purpose physical characteristics that support a range of multi-purpose outdoor recreation activities resulting in a high satisfaction of exercise and leisure enjoyment.

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, riding with pack stock, bicycling, backpacking, or cross-country skiing.
2. The trail must be of sufficient length to provide appropriate access to and facilitate the type of activities it is designated for.
3. Recreation trails are more about the activity or user enjoyment and designed to lend themselves to the users' preferred activities.

C. SCENIC TRAIL

Trails that qualify for this category must have scenery and scenic views of a natural beauty that is rare and unique, and exceeds that found on the vast majority of trails. These trails must portray a relative value of High or Medium High for its visual resources as described by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Classes I and II. The Scenic Quality Rating Criteria shall consider the following key factors and be scored according to the BLM VRI evaluation process:

1. Landform: Topography becomes more interesting as it gets steeper or more massive, or more severely or universally sculptured. Steep canyons, mesas, and buttes, create 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. Adjacent Scenery: This factor identifies the level of influence the adjacent scenery has on the overall visual quality of the trail corridor.
6. 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.
7. Cultural Modifications: This identifies if human modifications to the environment add visual variety in a favorable or discordant manner, promoting visual harmony or disharmony.

Additional criteria include:

8. A minimum of 75% of the trail's length (minimum of 75% of trails in a trail system) must provide high to medium high scenic quality (Class I or II).
9. Specific scenic views and overlooks must be identified and located on a map and digital data file with a topographic overlay.

D. INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Trails that qualify for this category must have a high interpretive value that communicates and shares knowledge and understanding of Arizona's natural and cultural resources. This includes, but is not limited to, biological (wildlife, fisheries, vegetation, habitats, etc.); geological (strata, formations, soils, etc.); historical and prehistoric (culture, events, persons, places, etc.); astronomy; and ethnic cultures.

1. By their very nature interpretive trails are intended to be informative. Therefore the signs, plaques, kiosks, and/or other instruments of information presentation should be of sufficient number, detail, and quality to accomplish this information presentation in a significant degree.
2. Interpretive trails shall either allow visitors to use and learn the information at their own pace by reading panels, exhibits, brochures, etc. or allow for an interactive experience with docent or volunteer led interpretive walks, and/or both.
3. Provide an interpretive map and program for the proposed trail route.
4. Clearly identify the items being interpreted and the primary and secondary themes and messages that will be graphically illustrated.
5. Clearly identify in detail the means and methods of how the interpretive information will be communicated to the public.
6. Identify locations of visitor amenities including, but not limited to, benches, viewing blinds, signs/interpretive panels or stations, drinking fountains, and/or shade structures that will enhance the visitor experience.

E. HISTORIC/CULTURAL TRAIL

Trails that qualify for this category must be an existing trail that is physically discernible on the ground's surface. The trail must have had an historic and/or prehistoric use that had an effect on Arizona's history and/or culture as it relates to our State's trade, commerce, migration, or settlement.

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 prehistoric and historic routes, high potential sites, high potential segments, remnants, and artifacts for public knowledge and enjoyment.
3. Trails containing proprietary information of a historical/cultural context according to existing laws and regulations will not be accepted.
4. 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.

5. Nomination documentation must include notification records and approvals of landowners along the route.
6. Signage and interpretive information must be provided to the trail users that identifies the trail's historical/cultural importance, including how to protect the resource and its context while enjoying the site. (Refer to the Interpretive Trail category for interpretive requirements.)
7. Land Manager(s)/Owner(s) must designate a contact person, agency or organization that will act as curator or steward of the trail and its historical/cultural information.

F. WATER TRAIL

Trails that qualify for this category must meet the requirements of one of the following two subcategories: Paddle Trail or Riparian Trail.

Both types of water trails must:

1. Provide access to permanent, perennial, or intermittent bodies of water, either static or free flowing.
2. Serve to protect, restore, and conserve Arizona's rivers, waterways, creeks, washes, shorelines, and natural areas adjacent to these water features.
3. Have an established, designated route and public access points that accommodate a variety of trip lengths and types and abilities of water users.
4. Provide a range of recreational and educational opportunities. Refer to the Interpretive Trail criteria for signage and interpretive requirements.
5. Public information shall include, but not be limited to, water quality, hazards, and emergency protocol.
6. Provide seasonal average water flow and water level information at the put-in and take-out access points and trailhead/staging areas.
7. Provide an emergency access plan identifying potential hazard areas with their safety takeout points and emergency access routes.
8. Comply with local, state, and federal laws regarding waterways and water rights.
9. Have approvals of the jurisdictional agency and landowners.
10. Have sufficient parking areas and sanitary facilities at appropriate put-in and take-out points.

Paddle Trails are trails that must have a route identified on a map for those waterways and/or bodies of water that provide a sufficient depth of water to allow for non-motorized water craft such as kayaks, canoes, row boats, and rafts. Paddle Trails must:

11. Have sufficient water depth to accommodate non-motorized paddle craft and have a published map that shows the route, put-ins, take-outs, parking areas, and mileage points along the route.

Riparian Trails are trails that must have a general route identified on a map for waterways and/or bodies of water that have a perennial or intermittent source of water. These trails may be physically constructed and maintained or non-discernible in nature. Riparian Trails must:

12. Have designated trailhead/staging areas with interpretive signage including a topography map of the riparian corridor.
13. Identify areas that should not be encroached upon or passed through.
14. Provide a recommended route and topography map for non-discernible trails.

G. 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 and submit their updated approved map and digital map data file to include the additional trails.
2. At 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.
4. A trail system consists of three or more connected trails.

IV. DESIGNATION AS AN ARIZONA PREMIER TRAIL

1. The Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) will make a 'Call for Premier Trails' to identify and nominate up to 100 trails.
2. All nominations will be reviewed by the ASCOT, prior to submittal, for completeness, appropriateness, and other factors such as general public safety.
3. The ASCOT recommendation will be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for final approval of the nominated trail.
4. A trail on the Arizona Premier Trails list will be re-evaluated every five years by the ASCOT to determine if it still meets the criteria set within this document. A trail will only be guaranteed to remain on the list for its initial five-year period.
5. The timelines for the nomination and evaluation process will be established by Arizona State Parks staff.
6. The Arizona Premier Trails will be listed on the State Parks website and trails app with all the available details for each trail. The link to this information will be sent to local, county, and state agencies and other public interest entities, for publication on their websites.

If this trail is managed, owned or crosses land of multiple agencies, attach a separate sheet with contact information for any additional managing and cooperative agencies and/or landowners.

Part I – Trail Information

Trail name and/or number:

Provide a short description of the trail for use in press releases or on websites publicizing APT Trails. **This description should be no more than 75 words.** This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items of health and fitness benefits, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail

Attach an overall description of the trail (uses, location, trail highlights including general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items). This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, health and fitness benefits, quality of construction and design, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail. **This description should be no more than 800 words** and may be used on the Arizona State Parks Website and other publications regarding Arizona Premier Trails – you should write the description to be interesting to potential trail users.

Has this trail been built?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this trail accessible to the public for most of the use season?

Yes No

Trails that serve as an amenity to a small, specialized or private population are not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails System. If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this nomination for the entire length of the trail? (Unless it is in the historical/cultural category)

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail may not be eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

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 Arizona Premier Trails System)

Is this trail on land that is owned or managed by a public entity?

Yes No

If yes, check appropriate entity: City County State Federal other

Describe if other:

Allowable Trail uses: Hiking Equestrian Mountain biking

X-country skiing Pack animal Boating/Floating

Backpacking Other:

Mileage: Is this trail at least one mile in length?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, describe any special characteristics such as interpretation, water trails, etc.

Layout: Loop trail One-way trail

Trail Width (average):

Trail Grade (average, maximum):

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

Highest elevation Lowest elevation

Primary Trail Surface. 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. Trails should be designed, constructed, and maintained according to current best management practices for its type of use. Submit a reference with your application.

Trail condition: include potential hazards and/or hazard areas. Describe the potential hazards: _____

(Hazards should be indicated on the trail map submitted with your application).

Describe/show trail signage, such as trailhead, directional, and interpretive signage here appropriate. Submit design examples of signage, including size, materials, installation method, etc. Describe how often the trail is inspected to ensure signage (including cairns, posts, etc.) remains intact.

Describe linkage to other trails: _____

Is an Emergency Marker System Part of Trail Signage? Yes No

If yes, describe the system.

Recommended seasons of use (check all that apply):

All Winter Spring Summer Fall

Include closure dates and reasons for closure periods, if applicable

Describe any friends groups or stewardship programs associated with the trail:

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 accessible per Americans with Disabilities Act? Yes No

Other considerations

Trailhead facilities (check all that apply):

Parking Restrooms Campgrounds Horse staging
Picnic Area Boat ramp Trailhead potable water

List nearest communities (and mileage to each): _____

List nearby public campgrounds (and mileage to each):

Trails must have technical, physical, and special attribute descriptions available in a public format, including but not limited to:

Water availability, source, and whether permanent or ephemeral – show on map submitted with the application

Emergency contact/availability/location – show on map submitted with the application.

Seasonal concerns.

Elevation changes/profile.

Special and unique features (geological, biological, vegetative, cultural (historical, pre-historical, Native American), scenic, etc.).

Signage and trail marker system.

Wildlife/habitat information.

Provide an accurate geo-referenced map or maps, including a digital data file that shows the verified location for the nominated 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. A 7.5" Quadrangle map may also be used or included. The map should be of an appropriate scale (1/24000 to 1/100,000 recommended). The map shall identify, at a minimum, the following items:

1. North arrow, scale, and date prepared.
2. Length of trail segment (Start to End point).
3. Identify trail/road access to trail.
4. Indicate emergency access points and routes.
5. Please include the following special designations on your map if they are on or transverse your trail: Wilderness Areas National Monuments National Parks .
6. Please include photographs of the trail.

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

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

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

Other Maps/Info:

Part II – Specific to Nationally Designated Trails

State how your trail is nationally significant. What sets it apart from others? Highlight the trail's main features, emphasizing such factors as connecting with other trails, health and fitness benefits, youth involvement, service to diverse communities and urban populations and innovations.

Please also submit the date that Trail was designated – Congressionally (National Scenic and Historic Trails) or Secretarially (National Recreation Trails).

Part III – Additional Attributes

Describe any additional attributes of the nominated trail not touched upon by parts I and II of the nomination form, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, innovation, quality of design and construction, maintenance plans, partnerships and support, interpretive facilities, outstanding scenic areas and natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

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 Premier Trails System. I understand that designation to the Arizona Premier 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**

If this trail is managed, owned or crosses land of multiple agencies, attach a separate sheet with contact information for any additional managing and cooperative agencies and/or landowners.

Part I – Trail Information

Trail name and/or number:

Provide a short description of the trail for use in press releases or on websites publicizing APT Trails. **This description should be no more than 75 words.** This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items of health and fitness benefits, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail

Attach an overall description of the trail (uses, location, trail highlights including general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items). This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, health and fitness benefits, quality of construction and design, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail. **This description should be no more than 800 words** and may be used on the Arizona State Parks Website and other publications regarding Arizona Premier Trails – you should write the description to be interesting to potential trail users.

Has this trail been built?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this trail accessible to the public for most of the use season?

Yes No

Trails that serve as an amenity to a small, specialized or private population are not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails System. If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this nomination for the entire length of the trail? (Unless it is in the historical/cultural category)

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail may not be eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

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 Arizona Premier Trails System)

Is this trail on land that is owned or managed by a public entity?

Yes No

If yes, check appropriate entity: City County State Federal other

Describe if other:

Allowable Trail uses: Hiking Equestrian Mountain biking

X-country skiing Pack animal Boating/Floating Backpacking Other:

Mileage: Is this trail at least one mile in length?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, describe any special characteristics such as interpretation, water trails, etc.

Layout: Loop trail One-way trail

Trail Width (average):

Trail Grade (average, maximum):

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

Highest elevation Lowest elevation

Primary Trail Surface. 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. Trails should be designed, constructed, and maintained according to current best management practices for its type of use. Submit a reference with your application.

Trail condition: include potential hazards and/or hazard areas. Describe the potential hazards: _____

(Hazards should be indicated on the trail map submitted with your application).

Describe/show trail signage, such as trailhead, directional, and interpretive signage here appropriate. Submit design examples of signage, including size, materials, installation method, etc. Describe how often the trail is inspected to ensure signage (including cairns, posts, etc.) remains intact.

Describe linkage to other trails: _____

Is an Emergency Marker System Part of Trail Signage? Yes No

If yes, describe the system.

Recommended seasons of use (check all that apply):

All Winter Spring Summer Fall

Include closure dates and reasons for closure periods, if applicable

Describe any friends groups or stewardship programs associated with the trail:

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 accessible per Americans with Disabilities Act? Yes No

Other considerations

Trailhead facilities (check all that apply):

Parking Restrooms Campgrounds Horse staging
Picnic Area Boat ramp Trailhead potable water

List nearest communities (and mileage to each): _____

List nearby public campgrounds (and mileage to each):

Trails must have technical, physical, and special attribute descriptions available in a public format, including but not limited to:

Water availability, source, and whether permanent or ephemeral – show on map submitted with the application

Emergency contact/availability/location – show on map submitted with the application.

Seasonal concerns.

Elevation changes/profile.

Special and unique features (geological, biological, vegetative, cultural (historical, pre-historical, Native American), scenic, etc.).

Signage and trail marker system.

Wildlife/habitat information.

Provide an accurate geo-referenced map or maps, including a digital data file that shows the verified location for the nominated 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. A 7.5" Quadrangle map may also be used or included. The map should be of an appropriate scale (1/24000 to 1/100,000 recommended). The map shall identify, at a minimum, the following items:

1. North arrow, scale, and date prepared.
2. Length of trail segment (Start to End point).
3. Identify trail/road access to trail.
4. Indicate emergency access points and routes.
5. Please include the following special designations on your map if they are on or transverse your trail: Wilderness Areas
National Monuments National Parks .
6. Include photographs of the trail.

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

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

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

Other Maps/Info:

Part II – Specific to Historic/Cultural Trails

A trail that qualifies for this category must be an existing trail that is physically discernible on the ground's surface. The trail must have had an historic and/or prehistoric use that had an effect on Arizona's history and/or culture as it relates to our State's trade, commerce, migration or settlement.

1. Describe the effect that use of the trail had on Arizona's culture with respect to the State's historic or prehistoric past.
2. Describe how this trail identifies and protects prehistoric and historic routes, high potential sites, high potential segments, remnants and artifacts while still providing enjoyment and education for the public.
3. Describe how interpretive information about the trail will be conveyed to the public.
4. Describe any docent or volunteer led programs or walks.
5. Provide an interpretive map and program for the proposed trail route.
6. Identify a contact person, agency or organization that will act as curator or steward of the trail's history.
7. *Trails containing proprietary information of a historical/cultural context according to existing laws and regulations will not be accepted.*

Part III – Additional Attributes

Describe any additional attributes of the nominated trail not touched upon by parts I and II of the nomination form, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, innovation, quality of design and construction, maintenance plans, partnerships and support, interpretive facilities, outstanding scenic areas and natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

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 Premier Trails System. I understand that designation to the Arizona Premier 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**



Arizona Premier Trails Nomination Form

FOR NONMOTORIZED TRAILS

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

5:00 p.m. [Day], [Month] 1, 2015

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL DESIGNATION

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 EIGHT.** Much of the information that you provide will be available to the public and may be used to publicize Arizona Premier Trails ("APT"). Please answer the questions completely as possible.

Contact information that will be included on the State Parks website and given to public inquiries about this trail:

Managing agency:

Address:

**Phone () Cell Phone ()
FAX () E-mail address:**

Web address (for users to find more information)

If this trail is managed, owned or crosses land of multiple agencies, attach a separate sheet with contact information for any additional managing and cooperative agencies and/or landowners.

Part I – Trail Information

Trail name and/or number:

Provide a short description of the trail for use in press releases or on websites publicizing APT Trails. **This description should be no more than 75 words.** This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items of health and fitness benefits, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail

Attach an overall description of the trail (uses, location, trail highlights including general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items). This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, health and fitness benefits, quality of construction and design, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail. **This description should be no more than 800 words** and may be used on the Arizona State Parks Website and other publications regarding Arizona Premier Trails – you should write the description to be interesting to potential trail users.

Has this trail been built?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this trail accessible to the public for most of the use season?

Yes No

Trails that serve as an amenity to a small, specialized or private population are not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails System. If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this nomination for the entire length of the trail? (Unless it is in the historical/cultural category)

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail may not be eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

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 Arizona Premier Trails System)

Is this trail on land that is owned or managed by a public entity?

Yes No

If yes, check appropriate entity: City County State Federal Other

Describe if other:

Allowable Trail uses: Hiking Equestrian Mountain biking

X-country skiing Pack animal Boating/Floating

Backpacking Other:

Mileage: Is this trail at least one mile in length?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, describe any special characteristics such as interpretation, water trails, etc.

Layout: Loop trail One-way trail

Trail Width (average):

Trail Grade (average, maximum):

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

Highest elevation Lowest elevation

Primary Trail Surface. 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. Trails should be designed, constructed, and maintained according to current best management practices for its type of use. Submit a reference with your application.

Trail condition: include potential hazards and/or hazard areas. Describe the potential hazards: _____

(Hazards should be indicated on the trail map submitted with your application).

Describe/show trail signage, such as trailhead, directional, and interpretive signage here appropriate. Submit design examples of signage, including size, materials, installation method, etc. Describe how often the trail is inspected to ensure signage (including cairns, posts, etc.) remains intact.

Describe linkage to other trails: _____

Is an Emergency Marker System Part of Trail Signage? Yes No

If yes, describe the system.

Recommended seasons of use (check all that apply):

All Winter Spring Summer Fall

Include closure dates and reasons for closure periods, if applicable

Describe any friends groups or stewardship programs associated with the trail:

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 accessible per Americans with Disabilities Act? Yes No

Other considerations

Trailhead facilities (check all that apply):

Parking Restrooms Campgrounds Horse staging
Picnic Area Boat ramp Trailhead potable water

List nearest communities (and mileage to each): _____

List nearby public campgrounds (and mileage to each):

Trails must have technical, physical, and special attribute descriptions available in a public format, including but not limited to:

Water availability, source, and whether permanent or ephemeral – show on map submitted with the application

Emergency contact/availability/location – show on map submitted with the application.

Seasonal concerns.

Elevation changes/profile.

Special and unique features (geological, biological, vegetative, cultural (historical, pre-historical, Native American), scenic, etc.).

Signage and trail marker system.

Wildlife/habitat information.

Provide an accurate geo-referenced map or maps, including a digital data file that shows the verified location for the nominated 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. A 7.5" Quadrangle map may also be used or included. The map should be of an appropriate scale (1/24000 to 1/100,000 recommended). The map shall identify, at a minimum, the following items:

1. North arrow, scale, and date prepared.
2. Length of trail segment (Start to End point).
3. Identify trail/road access to trail.
4. Indicate emergency access points and routes.
5. Please include the following special designations on your map if they are on or transverse your trail: Wilderness Areas
National Monuments National Parks .
6. Please include photographs of the trail.

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

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

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

Other Maps/Info:

Part II – Specific to Interpretive Trails

Trails that qualify for this category must have a high interpretive value that communicates and shares knowledge and understanding of Arizona’s natural and cultural resources. Describe how the nominated trail complies with the following considerations:

1. Identify the items being interpreted and the primary and secondary themes and messages that will be graphically illustrated.
2. Identify in detail the means and methods of how the interpretive information will be communicated to the public.
3. Describe means by which visitors can learn at their own pace such as panels, exhibits, brochures, etc.
4. Describe any docent or volunteer led programs or walks.
5. Provide an interpretive map and program for the proposed trail route.
6. Identify locations of visitor amenities such as benches, viewing blinds, signs/interpretive panels or stations, drinking fountains, shade structures, etc. that will enhance the visitor experience.

Part III – Additional Attributes

Describe any additional attributes of the nominated trail not touched upon by parts I and II of the nomination form, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, innovation, quality of design and construction, maintenance plans, partnerships and support, interpretive facilities, outstanding scenic areas and natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

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 Premier Trails System. I understand that designation to the Arizona Premier 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**

If this trail is managed, owned or crosses land of multiple agencies, attach a separate sheet with contact information for any additional managing and cooperative agencies and/or landowners.

Part I – Trail Information

Trail name and/or number:

Provide a short description of the trail for use in press releases or on websites publicizing APT Trails. **This description should be no more than 75 words.** This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items of health and fitness benefits, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail

Attach an overall description of the trail (uses, location, trail highlights including general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items). This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, health and fitness benefits, quality of construction and design, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail. **This description should be no more than 800 words** and may be used on the Arizona State Parks Website and other publications regarding Arizona Premier Trails – you should write the description to be interesting to potential trail users.

Has this trail been built?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this trail accessible to the public for most of the use season?

Yes No

Trails that serve as an amenity to a small, specialized or private population are not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails System. If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this nomination for the entire length of the trail? (Unless it is in the historical/cultural category)

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail may not be eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

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 Arizona Premier Trails System)

Is this trail on land that is owned or managed by a public entity?

Yes No

If yes, check appropriate entity: City County State Federal Other

Describe if other:

Allowable Trail uses: Hiking Equestrian Mountain biking

X-country skiing Pack animal Boating/Floating

Backpacking Other:

Mileage: Is this trail at least one mile in length?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, describe any special characteristics such as interpretation, water trails, etc.

Layout: Loop trail One-way trail

Trail Width (average):

Trail Grade (average, maximum):

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

Highest elevation Lowest elevation

Primary Trail Surface. 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. Trails should be designed, constructed, and maintained according to current best management practices for its type of use. Submit a reference with your application.

Trail condition: include potential hazards and/or hazard areas. Describe the potential hazards: _____

(Hazards should be indicated on the trail map submitted with your application).

Describe/show trail signage, such as trailhead, directional, and interpretive signage here appropriate. Submit design examples of signage, including size, materials, installation method, etc. Describe how often the trail is inspected to ensure signage (including cairns, posts, etc.) remains intact.

Describe linkage to other trails: _____

Is an Emergency Marker System Part of Trail Signage? Yes No

If yes, describe the system.

Recommended seasons of use (check all that apply):

All Winter Spring Summer Fall

Include closure dates and reasons for closure periods, if applicable

Describe any friends groups or stewardship programs associated with the trail:

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 accessible per Americans with Disabilities Act? Yes No

Other considerations

Trailhead facilities (check all that apply):

Parking Restrooms Campgrounds Horse staging
Picnic Area Boat ramp Trailhead potable water

List nearest communities (and mileage to each): _____

List nearby public campgrounds (and mileage to each):

Trails must have technical, physical, and special attribute descriptions available in a public format, including but not limited to:

Water availability, source, and whether permanent or ephemeral – show on map submitted with the application

Emergency contact/availability/location – show on map submitted with the application.

Seasonal concerns.

Elevation changes/profile.

Special and unique features (geological, biological, vegetative, cultural (historical, pre-historical, Native American), scenic, etc.).

Signage and trail marker system.

Wildlife/habitat information.

Provide an accurate geo-referenced map or maps, including a digital data file that shows the verified location for the nominated 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. A 7.5" Quadrangle map may also be used or included. The map should be of an appropriate scale (1/24000 to 1/100,000 recommended). The map shall identify, at a minimum, the following items:

1. North arrow, scale, and date prepared.
2. Length of trail segment (Start to End point).
3. Identify trail/road access to trail.
4. Indicate emergency access points and routes.
5. Please include the following special designations on your map if they are on or transverse your trail: Wilderness Areas
National Monuments National Parks .
6. Please include photographs of the trail.

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

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

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

Other Maps/Info:

Part II – Specific to Recreation

A trail that qualifies for this category must have as its main purpose physical characteristics that support a range of multi-purpose outdoor recreation activities resulting in a high satisfaction of exercise and leisure enjoyment. Describe the following as fully as possible for the nominated trail:

- 1. Trail type (check all that apply): Backcountry __, Equestrian __, Fitness Trail __, Greenway __, Mountain Bike __, Nature Trail __, Rail Trail __, Snow Trail __, Urban Trail/Bikeway __, Water trail __**
- 2. Describe what opportunities are available for trips of different length and elevation change, scenic and physical features, including connectivity to other trails or trail systems.**
- 3. Describe the unique way in which your trail satisfies the recreational needs of trail users.**
- 4. Describe any available overnight camping or other types of amenities, which might add to the recreational experience.**

Part III – Additional Attributes

Describe any additional attributes of the nominated trail not touched upon by parts I and II of the nomination form, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, innovation, quality of design and construction, maintenance plans, partnerships and support, interpretive facilities, outstanding scenic areas and natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

All applicants must complete this section.

AUTHORIZATION STATEMENT

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I, _____,

Name of landowner/managing agency representative

on behalf _____,

Landowner/managing agency

authorize this trail to be nominated into the Arizona Premier Trails System. I understand that designation to the Arizona Premier 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.

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If this trail is managed, owned or crosses land of multiple agencies, attach a separate sheet with contact information for any additional managing and cooperative agencies and/or landowners.

Part I – Trail Information

Trail name and/or number:

Provide a short description of the trail for use in press releases or on websites publicizing APT Trails. **This description should be no more than 75 words.** This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items of health and fitness benefits, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail

Attach an overall description of the trail (uses, location, trail highlights including general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items). This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, health and fitness benefits, quality of construction and design, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail. **This description should be no more than 800 words** and may be used on the Arizona State Parks Website and other publications regarding Arizona Premier Trails – you should write the description to be interesting to potential trail users.

Has this trail been built?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this trail accessible to the public for most of the use season?

Yes No

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Is this nomination for the entire length of the trail? (Unless it is in the historical/cultural category)

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail may not be eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

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 Arizona Premier Trails System)

Is this trail on land that is owned or managed by a public entity?

Yes No

If yes, check appropriate entity: City County State Federal Other

Describe if other:

Allowable Trail uses: Hiking Equestrian Mountain biking

X-country skiing Pack animal Boating/Floating

Backpacking Other:

Mileage: Is this trail at least one mile in length?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, describe any special characteristics such as interpretation, water trails, etc.

Layout: Loop trail One-way trail

Trail Width (average):

Trail Grade (average, maximum):

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

Highest elevation Lowest elevation

Primary Trail Surface. 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

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Trail condition: include potential hazards and/or hazard areas. Describe the potential hazards: _____

(Hazards should be indicated on the trail map submitted with your application).

Describe/show trail signage, such as trailhead, directional, and interpretive signage here appropriate. Submit design examples of signage, including size, materials, installation method, etc. Describe how often the trail is inspected to ensure signage (including cairns, posts, etc.) remains intact.

Describe linkage to other trails: _____

Is an Emergency Marker System Part of Trail Signage? Yes No

If yes, describe the system.

Recommended seasons of use (check all that apply):

All Winter Spring Summer Fall

Include closure dates and reasons for closure periods, if applicable

Describe any friends groups or stewardship programs associated with the trail:

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 accessible per Americans with Disabilities Act? Yes No

Other considerations

Trailhead facilities (check all that apply):

Parking Restrooms Campgrounds Horse staging
Picnic Area Boat ramp Trailhead potable water

List nearest communities (and mileage to each): _____

List nearby public campgrounds (and mileage to each):

Trails must have technical, physical, and special attribute descriptions available in a public format, including but not limited to:

Water availability, source, and whether permanent or ephemeral – show on map submitted with the application

Emergency contact/availability/location – show on map submitted with the application.

Seasonal concerns.

Elevation changes/profile.

Special and unique features (geological, biological, vegetative, cultural (historical, pre-historical, Native American), scenic, etc.).

Signage and trail marker system.

Wildlife/habitat information.

Provide an accurate geo-referenced map or maps, including a digital data file that shows the verified location for the nominated 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. A 7.5" Quadrangle map may also be used or included. The map should be of an appropriate scale (1/24000 to 1/100,000 recommended). The map shall identify, at a minimum, the following items:

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3. Identify trail/road access to trail.
4. Indicate emergency access points and routes.
5. Please include the following special designations on your map if they are on or transverse your trail: Wilderness Areas
National Monuments National Parks .
6. Please include photographs of the trail.

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

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

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

Other Maps/Info:

Part II – Specific to Scenic

Trails that qualify for this category must have scenery and scenic views of a natural beauty that are rare and unique and far exceed those found on the vast majority of trails. These trails must portray a relative value of High or Medium High for their visual resources as described on the Bureau of Land Management's Visual Resource Inventory, Classes I and II. Describe the following characteristics and provide photographic documentation for the nominated trail:

- 1. Landform:**
- 2. Vegetation:**
- 3. Water:**
- 4. Color:**
- 5. Adjacent Scenery:**
- 6. Scarcity:**
- 7. Cultural Modifications:**

Additional criteria to include;

- 8. Minimum of 75% of the trail must provide high to medium high scenic quality – Class I or Class II**
- 9. Specific scenic views and overlooks must be identified and located on a map and digital data file with a topographic overlay.**

Part III – Additional Attributes

Describe any additional attributes of the nominated trail not touched upon by parts I and II of the nomination form, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, innovation, quality of design and construction, maintenance plans, partnerships and support, interpretive facilities, outstanding scenic areas and natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

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.

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I, _____,

Name of landowner/managing agency representative

on behalf _____,

Landowner/managing agency

authorize this trail to be nominated into the Arizona Premier Trails System. I understand that designation to the Arizona Premier 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

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Part I – Trail Information

Trail name and/or number:

Provide a short description of the trail for use in press releases or on websites publicizing APT Trails. **This description should be no more than 75 words.** This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items of health and fitness benefits, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail

Attach an overall description of the trail (uses, location, trail highlights including general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items). This description should highlight the significance of your trail and any unique features that set your trail apart. Examples of other items that may be addressed are connectivity to other trails, health and fitness benefits, quality of construction and design, community and/or youth involvement, evolution and history of the trail and/or any special events or activities associated with your trail. **This description should be no more than 800 words** and may be used on the Arizona State Parks Website and other publications regarding Arizona Premier Trails – you should write the description to be interesting to potential trail users.

Has this trail been built? For riparian trails only.

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail is not eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

Is this trail accessible to the public for most of the use season?

Yes No

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Is this nomination for the entire length of the trail? (Unless it is in the historical/cultural category)

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, your trail may not be eligible for inclusion in the Arizona Premier Trails system.

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

Yes No

Is this trail owned or managed by a public entity?

Yes No

If yes, check appropriate entity: City County State Federal Other

Describe if other:

Allowable Trail uses:

Boating/Floating Other:

Mileage: Is this trail at least one mile in length?

Yes No

If you answered no to this question, describe any special characteristics such as interpretation, water trails, etc.

Trail Width (average):

Trail Grade (average, maximum):

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

Highest elevation

Lowest elevation

Primary Trail Surface. (Riparian trails only) 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. Trails should be designed, constructed, and maintained according to current best management practices for its type of use. Submit a reference with your application. _

Trail condition: include potential hazards and/or hazard areas. Describe the potential hazards: _____

(Hazards should be indicated on the trail map submitted with your application).

Describe/show trail signage, such as trailhead, directional, and interpretive signage here appropriate. Submit design examples of signage, including size, materials, installation method, etc. Describe how often the trail is inspected to ensure signage (including cairns, posts, etc.) remains intact.

Describe linkage to other trails:_____

Is an Emergency Marker System Part of Trail Signage? Yes No

If yes, describe the system.

Recommended seasons of use (check all that apply):

All Winter Spring Summer Fall

Include closure dates and reasons for closure periods, if applicable

Describe any friends groups or stewardship programs associated with the trail:

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 accessible per Americans with Disabilities Act? Yes No

Other considerations

Trailhead facilities (check all that apply):

Parking Restrooms Campgrounds

Picnic Area Boat ramp Trailhead potable water

List nearest communities (and mileage to each): _____

List nearby public campgrounds (and mileage to each):

Trails must have technical, physical, and special attribute descriptions available in a public format, including but not limited to:

Water availability, source, and whether permanent or ephemeral – show on map submitted with the application

Emergency contact/availability/location – show on map submitted with the application.

Seasonal concerns.

Elevation changes/profile.

Special and unique features (geological, biological, vegetative, cultural (historical, pre-historical, Native American), scenic, etc.).

Signage and trail marker system.

Wildlife/habitat information.

Provide an accurate geo-referenced map or maps, including a digital data file that shows the verified location for the nominated 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. A 7.5" Quadrangle map may also be used or included. The map should be of an appropriate scale (1/24000 to 1/100,000 recommended). The map shall identify, at a minimum, the following items:

1. North arrow, scale, and date prepared.
2. Length of trail segment (Start to End point).
3. Identify trail/road access to trail.
4. Indicate emergency access points and routes.
5. Please include the following special designations on your map if they are on or transverse your trail: Wilderness Areas National Monuments National Parks .
6. Please include photographs of the trail.

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

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

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

Other Maps/Info:

Part II – Specific to Water Trails

Trails that qualify for this category must meet the requirements of one of the following two subcategories: Paddle Trail or Riparian Trail. Describe how the nominated trail complies with the following general considerations:

1. Provides access to permanent, perennial, or intermittent bodies of water, either static or free-flowing.
2. Protects, restores or conserves Arizona's rivers, waterways, creeks, washes, shorelines, and natural areas adjacent to these water features.
3. Describe the designated route and public access points that accommodate a variety of trip lengths and types and abilities of water users.
4. Provides a range of recreational and educational opportunities.
5. Identify hazard areas, safety take-outs and emergency access points.
6. Provide average seasonal water flow and water level information at the put-in and take-out access points and trailhead staging areas.
7. Complies with local, state and federal laws regarding waterways and water rights.
8. Must be on a waterway or designated section of a waterway that does not allow motorized traffic.
9. Identify whether the water source is constant, perennial or intermittent.
10. Identify the designated trailhead/staging areas.
11. Identify interpretive signage including a topography map of the riparian corridor.
12. Identify areas that should not be encroached upon or passed through.
13. Identify segments that have been designated in the national Wild and Scenic River System or have been determined as suitable for such designation.

Paddle Trail:

1. Must provide sufficient depth of water to allow for non-motorized crafts such as kayaks, canoes, rowboats and rafts.
2. If possible, provide restroom/changing facilities.

Riparian Trail:

1. Identify if the trail is physically constructed and maintained or non-discernible. If non-discernible, provide a recommended route and topography map.

Part III – Additional Attributes

Describe any additional attributes of the nominated trail not touched upon by parts I and II of the nomination form, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, innovation, quality of design and construction, maintenance plans, partnerships and support, interpretive facilities, outstanding scenic areas and natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

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 Premier Trails System. I understand that designation to the Arizona Premier 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**



**Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT)
Information Report
Agenda Item # E1:**

Title: Off -Highway Vehicle and Recreational Trail
Program Grant Cycle Announced
Staff Lead: Mickey Rogers, Grants Coordinator
Date: January 16, 2015

Status to Date:

Arizona State Parks announced on January 12, 2015 that projects are being solicited to obligate the FY2016 federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Funds.

Funding for selected projects will be available in July, 2015 and the project must be ready to move forward within nine months. Matching funds of at least 5.7% of total cost of the project are required for RTP funds and all RTP projects must meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Approximately \$2 million is available of which approximately \$800,000 is available for one of two programs for non-motorized projects and \$1 million is available for motorized projects. An eligible project sponsor may apply for only one non-motorized funding programs.

The first non-motorized program offers up to \$650,000 for RTP Non-Motorized Project Grants. Project grants support efforts to build new trails, maintain and renovate existing trails, and provide support facilities and/or trail signage. A sponsor can apply for up to \$80,000 per project in this program.

The second non-motorized program offers up to \$150,000 for trail maintenance and/or realignment projects. A sponsor can apply for up to \$30,000 per project in this program. State Parks contracts with a trained trail crew to do this routine trail maintenance and pays them directly. The project sponsor identifies the work needed, provides the required NEPA documentation, required match, and selects and manages the trail crew. Project sponsors who have not received funding in the most recent grant cycles will have priority.

Up to \$1,000,000 in RTP and OHV Recreation Fund grant monies are available for motorized projects which support new trail construction, for the rehabilitation of existing trails, trail head improvements, mitigation, law enforcement, education, signage and also funds can also be used for planning and design of new trails. A sponsor can receive up to \$300,000 for a single motorized project.

Projects are selected through a competitive rating process which is based on the 2010 Arizona State Parks Trails Plan priorities. The grant manuals for each program and all forms are available to download at the Arizona State Parks website.

**Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT)
Information Report
Agenda Item # E1:**

Upcoming Activities:

A grant application workshop for both the RTP and OHV Recreation Fund programs will be provided on January 27, 2015 at the Arizona State Parks administrative office. Applications are due by February 27, 2015.

Time Frame/Target Date for Completion:

The Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG), the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT), and the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) will meet in April to discuss and recommend awards to the highest ranked projects. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board where final approval will be decided.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

To provide sustainable management of our natural, cultural, recreational, economic and human resources.

To provide safe, meaningful and unique experiences for our visitors, volunteers and citizens.

To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.