

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

Bryan Martyn  
Executive Director



Board Members

Alan Everett, Sedona, *Chair*  
Walter D. Armer, Jr., Vail  
Mark Brnovich, Phoenix  
R. J. Cardin, Phoenix  
Kay Daggett, Sierra Vista  
Larry Landry, Phoenix  
Vanessa Hickman,  
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 **November 1, 2014, at Oracle State Park, 3820 E Wildlife Dr., Oracle, Arizona 85623 beginning at 10 am.** Attendance via teleconference is available by calling 1.877.820.7831 and entering the participant code 522515.

The ASCOT may elect to hold an Executive Session for any agenda item at any time during the meeting to discuss or consult with its legal counsel for legal advice on matters listed on this agenda pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (3). Items on the Agenda may be discussed out of order, unless they have been specifically noted to be set for a time certain. Public comment will be taken and may be limited to one person per group and not more than five minutes per speaker.

The Committee will discuss and may take action on the following matters:

**AGENDA**

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

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, GUESTS, AND STAFF**
- C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC** – The Chair will recognize those wishing to address the Committee. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization and the time allotted by the Chair. Action taken as a result of acknowledgment of comments and suggestions from the public will be limited to directing staff to study or reschedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.
- D. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS**
  - 1. ASCOT Will Review and Approve Minutes from the August 2, 2014 Meeting.**

1-30

2. **ASCOT Will Review the Nominating Committee Recommendation for 2015 New Members and Make a Recommendation for Parks Board Approval** – The ASCOT Nominating Committee met on September 29, 2014 to review the applications and prepare a recommendation for consideration by ASCOT at the October meeting. 31-32

**Attachment D2.A** – Member Applications 33-36

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. 37-38

**Attachment D3. A.** – Criteria 39-44

**Attachment D3. B.** – Nomination Form 45-52

**Attachment D3. C.** – All Categories Part II & III 53-60

**Attachment D3. D.** – Duration of Premier Trails on the List 61-63

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

1. **ASCOT Will Receive an Update from the Public Outreach Subcommittee (POS) and Discuss Their Goals** – The POS has met to identify their responsibilities and will report on their outcomes. The POS may solicit suggestions from the entire committee.
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.
3. **Update on the 2015 State Trails Plan** – Staff will provide an update on the status of the 2015 State Trails Plan. 64-65
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.

**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 plans procedures. Suggested dates:

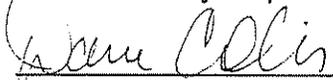
Friday, January 16, 23, or 30

Saturday, January 17, 24, or 31

**H. 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 Robert Baldwin at (602) 542-7130.

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



1 10/22/14

Dawn Collins, Chief of Resources & Public Programs  
Arizona State Parks

Posted at: Arizona State Parks  
1300 W. Washington, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Phoenix, Arizona

And at: <http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.html>

**Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) Action Item  
Agenda Item D2**



**Title:** ASCOT Will Review the Nominating Committee Recommendation for 2015 New Members and Make a Recommendation for Parks Board Approval

**Staff Lead:** Mickey Rogers, Grants Coordinator

**Date:** November 1, 2014

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**Recommended Motion(s):**

I move that Jan Hancock, Richard Kesselman, Mathew Nelson, Michael Harris be appointed to ASCOT to begin serving on January 1, 2015 and serve through December 31, 2017 and request that this motion be presented to the State Parks Board for final approval.

**Status to Date:**

The Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) advises the Arizona State Parks Board on planning, development, funding, maintenance and promotion of the 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 September 26, 2014 and reviewed the four applications of the following candidates and makes this recommendation consistent with the current goals of the Committee (Bylaws Section III.A – Membership). The application form for each applicant is provided as Attachment D2.A. Members of the Nominating Committee may comment on the nominations or selection process.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>County</u>
Jan Hancock	Trail User Group/Association	Maricopa
Richard Kesselman	Trail User Group/Association	Maricopa
Mathew Nelson	Trail User Group/Association	Pima
Michael Harris	Representative-at-Large	Pima

Currently the Committee is seeking to fill four positions that will be vacant on January 1, 2015.

**Time Frame:**

As applicable from the time the action is approved by the State Parks Board and until the Nominating Committee reviews the applications from the next solicitation.

**Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) Action Item  
Agenda Item D2**

**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.

**Relevant Past Board Actions:**

The State Parks Board at their November 19, 2013 meeting approved ASCOT Bylaws identifying the conditions for membership.

**Attachments:**

D2.A – Member Applications

**Public Comment/Questions regarding the Motion:**

<b>ASCOT Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Connie Lane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bernadine McCollum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Angela Villa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Claire Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patrick Kell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Doug Von Gausig	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Craig Stevens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approve       Deny       Amend

**Amend as follows:**

**Committee Questions/Comments:**

## 2015 APPLICATION

Arizona State Parks Board appoints the 15-member, volunteer Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT). ASCOT advises the State Parks Board and staff on the planning, development, funding, maintenance, and promotion of nonmotorized trails in Arizona. ASCOT members represent a variety of non-motorized trails interests and geographical regions within Arizona. Each individual is appointed to a three-year term. ASCOT meets approximately four times per year; twice during the week (Friday) and twice on the weekend (Saturday) at locations around the state. Subcommittees of ASCOT meet more frequently throughout the year to accomplish goals. Members are expected to be active in the various Subcommittees and commit time between quarterly meetings to help accomplish the goals of ASCOT.

ASCOT members derive from a representative mix of governmental agencies, trails user groups and representatives-at-large. At present, the committee is seeking to fill four (4) positions that will be vacant on January 1, 2014. Selected candidates will meet the affiliation requirements below.

**PLEASE CONSIDER MY APPLICATION FOR SERVICE AS AN ASCOT VOLUNTEER MEMBER**

Full Name: Matthew James Nelson

Prefer to be called: Matt

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Tucson, Arizona 85736

Business Address: [REDACTED]

Tucson, Arizona 85705

Home Telephone: [REDACTED]

Business/Cell Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

County of Residence: Pima

**AFFILIATION REQUIREMENT -- (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX)**

\*Governmental Agency (up to 4 vacancies)

Identify agency:

\*Trail User Group or Association (up to 3 vacancies)

Identify Association: Arizona Trail Association

Representative-at-Large (one vacancies)

**NOTE: If you are a member of an organization, you cannot apply for Representative-at-Large.**

\*All agency and organization applicants must include an official letter stating that they are an employee of the agency or member of the organization, and have permission to represent the agency or organization on ASCOT if appointed to serve.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS – ELECTRONIC COPIES ARE ACCEPTABLE**

1. Completed application form.
2. A letter describing your interest and motivation for wanting to volunteer for the Arizona State Committee on Trails. Briefly address any applicable items below:
3. Briefly address the following:
  - **Education, training and/or experience**
  - **Career highlights:** Describe significant related experience, civic and professional activities, elected offices, prior organizational experience/leadership, and career achievements.
  - **Personal pursuits:** Describe your primary trail activities and interests, geographical areas within Arizona you are familiar with, and any other volunteer experiences and relevant items about yourself that you would like to share.
4. SEE ABOVE FOR AFFILIATION LETTER REQUIREMENT

**COMPLETED APPLICATION, LETTER OF INTEREST, AND AFFILIATION SUPPORT LETTER  
ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 BY 5:00 P.M. AT:**

Arizona State Parks  
ATTN: Robert Baldwin, Recreational Trails Grants Coordinator  
1300 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

602/542-7130 / rbaldwin@azstateparks.gov

## 2015 APPLICATION

Arizona State Parks Board appoints the 15-member, volunteer Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT). ASCOT advises the State Parks Board and staff on the planning, development, funding, maintenance, and promotion of nonmotorized trails in Arizona. ASCOT members represent a variety of non-motorized trails interests and geographical regions within Arizona. Each individual is appointed to a three-year term. ASCOT meets approximately four times per year; twice during the week (Friday) and twice on the weekend (Saturday) at locations around the state. Subcommittees of ASCOT meet more frequently throughout the year to accomplish goals. Members are expected to be active in the various Subcommittees and commit time between quarterly meetings to help accomplish the goals of ASCOT.

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**PLEASE CONSIDER MY APPLICATION FOR SERVICE AS AN ASCOT VOLUNTEER MEMBER**

Full Name: Michael E. Harris

Prefer to be called: Mike

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: Same

Home Telephone: [REDACTED]

Business/Cell Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

County of Residence: Pima

**AFFILIATION REQUIREMENT -- (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX)**

- \*Governmental Agency (up to 4 vacancies) Identify agency:
- \*Trail User Group or Association (up to 3 vacancies) Identify Group or Association:
- Representative-at-Large (one vacancies)

**NOTE: If you are a member of an organization, you cannot apply for Representative-at-Large.**

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602/542-7130 / rbaldwin@azstateparks.gov



ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)  
2015 APPLICATION

Attachment D2.A

Arizona State Parks Board appoints the 15-member, volunteer Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT). ASCOT advises the State Parks Board and staff on the planning, development, funding, maintenance, and promotion of nonmotorized trails in Arizona. ASCOT members represent a variety of non-motorized trails interests and geographical regions within Arizona. Each individual is appointed to a three-year term. ASCOT meets approximately four times per year, twice during the week (Friday) and twice on the weekend (Saturday) at locations around the state. Subcommittees of ASCOT meet more frequently throughout the year to accomplish goals. Members are expected to be active in the various Subcommittees and commit time between quarterly meetings to help accomplish the goals of ASCOT.

ASCOT members derive from a representative mix of governmental agencies, trails user groups and representatives-at-large. At present, the committee is seeking to fill four (4) positions that will be vacant on January 1, 2014. Selected candidates will meet the affiliation requirements below.

**PLEASE CONSIDER MY APPLICATION FOR SERVICE AS AN ASCOT VOLUNTEER MEMBER**

Full Name: Jan Hancock Prefer to be called: Jan  
Home Address: [REDACTED] Phx, AZ 85003 Business Address:  
Home Telephone: [REDACTED] Business/Cell Telephone: [REDACTED]  
E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]  
County of Residence: Maricopa

**AFFILIATION REQUIREMENT -- (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX)**

- \*Governmental Agency (up to 4 vacancies) Identify agency:  
x \*Trail User Group or Association (up to 3 vacancies) Identify Group or Association: Maricopa Trail + Park Foundation  
 Representative-at-Large (one vacancies)

**NOTE: If you are a member of an organization, you cannot apply for Representative-at-Large.**

\*All agency and organization applicants must include an official letter stating that they are an employee of the agency or member of the organization, and have permission to represent the agency or organization on ASCOT if appointed to serve.

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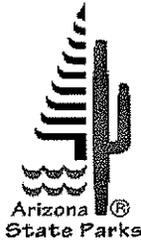
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ATTN: Robert Baldwin, Recreational Trails Grants Coordinator  
1300 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

602/542-7130 / rbaldwin@azstateparks.gov

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



**Title:** State Trail System Subcommittee Will Update ASCOT on the Status of the Arizona Premier Trails System  
**Staff Lead:** Mickey Rogers, Grants Coordinator  
**Date:** November 1, 2014

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**Recommended Motion:**

I move that the Arizona State Committee On Trails approve the nomination criteria and point allocation as presented by the STS Subcommittee including any proposed changes by ASCOT.

**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”. ASCOT has always wrestled with the management of the database and promotion of such an extensive system of trails. In 2012 the ASCOT State Trails System Subcommittee began a process to identify how best to manage the system. Trail users expect detailed information on the condition, difficulty, and location of the trails they are interested in. The main drawback to publication of trail information on a statewide website or through a phone application is that all information must be current and verified, especially global positioning system (GPS) data. Collecting that data for 800+ trails from a variety of trail managers is prohibitive. Also, most trail managers provide this information on their own websites.

Recently (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, 2104 meeting ASCOT approved a name for the new system, *Arizona Premier Trails*, and identified the categories for trails that will be included in the new system: National Trail System, Historic, Interpretive, Recreation, Scenic, Water, and Trail Systems. The STS Subcommittee then began working on nomination criteria and a point system to evaluate the nominations. The STS Subcommittee is bringing these recommendations to ASCOT for ratification.

The ASCOT discussion at this meeting also needs to focus on a selection process that could include public participation and plans to promote the trails. 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

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

Board for designation as the new state trail system that will be the basis for the next state trails plan. The current State Trails System data will be archived with minimal updating.

**Time Frame/Target Date for Completion:**

The goal is to have the nomination, selection, and promotion plans for the Arizona Premier Trails system completed for review and approval by 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 D3. A. – Criteria
- Attachment D3. B. – Nomination Form
- Attachment D3. C. – All Categories Part II & III
- Attachment D3. D. – Duration of Premier Trails on the List

<b>ASCOT Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Connie Lane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bernadine McCollum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Angela Villa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Claire Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patrick Kell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Doug Von Gausig	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Craig Stevens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approve                       Deny                       Amend

**Amend as follows:**

**Committee Questions/Comments:**

## 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 have been established to recognize and promote non-motorized trails that are of special significance to both Arizona's residents and visitors. Trails offer a wide variety of outdoor opportunities. To provide for recognition of various types of trails, trail designations are categorized as Recreation, Interpretive, Historic/Cultural, Scenic, Water/Riparian, and 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 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).
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. The trail must have no more than 10% of its entire length (or no more than 10% of a trail system) parallel roadway corridors or developed areas. The 10% must have a minimum 200' buffer.
16. 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.
17. Loop trails do not have to have a different beginning and end point.
18. Trails must have an annual and/or weather event conditions evaluation with a committed on-going maintenance program with preferably a designated trail steward or coordinator.
19. Trails must have a 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, and outdoor recreation and trail ethics.
20. Trails must be designed, constructed, and maintained according to current best management practices for its type of use.
21. Trails must be in compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws.
22. Trails must have technical, physical, and special attribute descriptions available in a public format including but not limited to:
  - a. Level of difficulty
  - 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

### III. SPECIFIC NOMINATION CRITERIA BY TRAIL CATEGORY

#### A. U.S. NATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

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

#### 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 or riding with pack stock, bicycling, backpacking, hiking or riding with pack stock, or cross-country skiing.
2. The trail must be of sufficient length to provide appropriate access to and facilitate the 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 far 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, buttes, interesting erosional patterns or a variety of size and shape of landforms.
2. Vegetation: Consideration is given to the variety of patterns, forms, colors and textures created by plant life.
3. Water: This ingredient adds movement or serenity to a scene.
4. Color: The overall colors of the basic components of the landscape, (e.g., soil, rock, vegetation, etc.) add variety contrast and harmony to the scene.
5. 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 quite 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 non-motorized 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 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. A least 80% of the system nomination must satisfy the relevant criteria.
3. Trail systems must not have any broken segments; all trails within the system must have connectivity to other trails and access points.

## **IV. DESIGNATION AS AN ARIZONA PREMIER TRAIL**

1. 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 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.
4. The list of the Arizona Premier Trails will be re-evaluated every five years by the ASCOT to determine if they still meet the criteria set within this document.
5. 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 list will be sent to local, county, and state entities for publication on their websites.



If this trail is managed by 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.**

**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.

Rick 10/18/14 1:29 PM  
Comment [1]: Up to 3 points.

**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 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)

**Allowable Trail uses:**

Hiking

Road bicycling  X-country skiing  Pack animal  Boating/Floating

Backpacking  Other:

Equestria  
Rick 10/18/14 11:56 AM  
Comment [2]: Each use gets 1 point up to a maximum of 5 points.

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

Yes  No

**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).

Rick 10/10/14 9:13 AM  
Comment [8]: Up to 3 points. Hazards could make the trail more interesting or just a bad thing.

**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.

Rick 10/10/14 9:35 AM  
Comment [9]: Up to 5 points.

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

Rick 10/20/14 10:03 AM  
Comment [10]: Up to 3 points.

**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.

Rick 10/18/14 1:07 PM  
Comment [11]: Up to 7 points.

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

If yes, describe the system.

Rick 10/10/14 9:36 AM  
Comment [12]: This is covered in comment 23.

Rick 10/10/14 9:26 AM  
Comment [13]: Up to 7 points.

**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

Rick 10/10/14 9:44 AM  
Comment [14]: Up to 3 points.

**Trailhead facilities (check all that are applicable):**

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

Rick 10/10/14 9:36 AM  
Comment [15]: Up to 5 points.

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.

Rick 10/20/14 9:48 AM  
Comment [16]: Up to 2 points.

Rick 10/18/14 1:17 PM  
Comment [17]: Up to 3 points.

Rick 10/20/14 9:47 AM  
Comment [18]: Up to 2 points.

Rick 10/20/14 9:47 AM  
Comment [19]: Up to 3 point.

Rick 10/18/14 1:17 PM  
Comment [20]: This item is covered in comments 21 and 22.

Rick 10/18/14 1:17 PM  
Comment [21]: Up to 2 points.

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.

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

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

Other Maps/Info:

Rick 10/20/14 9:54 AM  
Comment [22]: Up to 2 points for this 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 .

Include photographs of the trail.

Rick 10/20/14 9:52 AM  
Comment [23]: Up to 1 point.

**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:

Rick 10/20/14 9:31 AM  
Comment [24]: Up to 15 points for this part.

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, not previously mentioned, of the nominated trail, 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 natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

Rick 10/20/14 9:30 AM  
Comment [25]: Up to 10 points for this part.

**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**

**Part II – Specific to Interpretive Trails**

Rick 10/20/14 10:20 AM  
Comment [1]: Up to 15 points for this part.

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**

Rick 10/20/14 10:20 AM  
Comment [2]: Up to 10 points for this part.

Describe any additional attributes, not previously mentioned, of the nominated trail, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, partnerships and support, interpretive facilities, outstanding natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

**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:

Rick 10/20/14 10:21 AM  
Comment [3]: Up to 15 points for this part.

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 previously mentioned, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, or any other special or interesting items.

Rick 10/20/14 10:21 AM  
Comment [4]: Up to 10 points for this part.

**Part II – Specific to Nationally Designated Trails**

A trail that has already been accepted into the National Trails System will be accepted as an Arizona Premier Trail upon receipt by State Parks of a completed Nomination Form. This form should provide all the required information we ask of other applicants. This information should be current at the time of the submission of the Nomination Form. Please also submit the date that Trail was designated – Congressionally (National Scenic and Historic Trails) or Secretarially (National Recreation Trails).

RC: 10/20/14 10:22 AM  
Comment [5]: Up to 15 points for this part.

**Part III – Additional Attributes**

Describe any additional attributes, not previously mentioned, of the nominated trail, 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 natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

RC: 10/20/14 10:22 AM  
Comment [6]: Up to 10 points for this part.

**Part II – Specific to Trails Systems**

A trail system consists of three or more connected trails. 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. Trail systems must not have any broken segments. All trails within the system must have connectivity to other trails and access points. The Trails System should satisfy the general criteria for acceptance for Arizona Premier Trails.

R16: 10/20/14 10:22 AM  
Comment [7]: Up to 15 points for this part.

1. List the names of each trail in the system:
2. List all types of trail usages allowed:
3. List or describe any connections to other trails or trails systems.
4. Describe any associated recreation features.

**Part III – Additional Attributes**

Describe any additional attributes of the nominated trail not touched upon by 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.

R16: 10/20/14 10:22 AM  
Comment [8]: Up to 10 points for this part.

## Part II – Specific to Water Trails

REG: [020/04-1028/AV]  
 Comment [9]: Up to 15 points for this part.

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:

7. Provides access to permanent, perennial, or intermittent bodies of water, either static or free-flowing.
8. Protects, restores or conserves Arizona's rivers, waterways, creeks, washes, shorelines, and natural areas adjacent to these water features.
9. Describe the designated route and public access points that accommodate a variety of trip lengths and types and abilities of water users.
10. Provides a range of recreational and educational opportunities.
11. Identify hazard areas, safety take-outs and emergency access points.
12. Provide average seasonal water flow and water level information at the put-in and take-out access points and trailhead staging areas.
13. Complies with local, state and federal laws regarding waterways and water rights.
14. Must be on a waterway or designated section of a waterway that does not allow motorized traffic.
15. Identify whether the water source is constant, perennial or intermittent.
16. Identify the designated trailhead/staging areas.
17. Identify interpretive signage including a topography map of the riparian corridor.
18. Identify areas that should not be encroached upon or passed through.
19. 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, row boats 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, not previously mentioned, for the nominated trail, for example, general and historic points of interest, local history and uses, partnerships and support, interpretive facilities, outstanding natural resources or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

RIC 10/20/14 10:23 AM  
Comment [10]: Up to 10 points for this part.

**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.**

RIG 10/20/12 10:25 AM  
Comment [11]: Up to 15 points for this part.

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, not previously mentioned, of the nominated trail for example, outstanding scenic, recreational and natural resource areas or any other attribute which makes your trail unique.

RIG 10/20/12 10:25 AM  
Comment [12]: Up to 10 points for this part.

60  
50

## Arizona Premier Trails- Duration of Time a Trail is on the List

### 1. Current position:

- a. There is a maximum limit of 100 trails.
- b. All National Trails are automatically approved to be on this list if the land manager submits a fully completed Nomination form.
- c. There are currently 37 NRT in Arizona. This currently leaves 63 remaining slots available for non-NRT trails in Arizona. This assumes all 37 NRT trails apply to be on this list.
- d. If additional NRT trails in the future are added in Arizona, there is no proposal as to how to keep the list at 100. Do we increase the list from 100 to 105, 107 or 120 to accommodate the additional NRT trails approved in Arizona?
- e. Once a trail is approved to be on the list, it is on forever. It has not been determined if the land manager must submit a certification, at some period of time, (perhaps every 3 or 5 years) stating that the trail information submitted in the original application is still correct. If this is done, the trail remains on the list. If there are material modifications needed to the original submission, then the trail would be reevaluated with all other new trail submissions and must be approved again to remain on the list.
- f. No other Arizona trails, no matter how deserving they may be, can ever get on the list unless ASCOT increases the list from 100 to some other number. Increasing the number above 100 is totally contrary to the unanimous intent to keep this a select Premier list. It was clear no one wanted to have the number continually increase overtime as did the Arizona State Trails list.

### 2. Current position negatives:

- a. No other Arizona trails, existing or built in the future, no matter how deserving they may be, can ever get on the list unless ASCOT increases the list from 100 to some other number or some listed trail is removed from the list.
- b. Various local entities, (tourists bureaus, chamber of commerce's, hotel marketing groups, etc.) may complain of unfairness.
- c. Land managers who are anxious and willing to improve their trails to get on the list will be shut out. This could cause ill will and claims of unfairness.
- d. This list will soon become stale after trail users who have experienced many or all of the existing 100 trails will be looking for new and different experiences. They no longer will ever look again for this list at the State Parks or other sites where it is posted. Keeping essentially the same list of trails for 5, 10, 30+ years is not keeping the list fresh and dynamic. This list will soon become irrelevant, as did the STS.
- e. Once land managers are told that getting on the list is a lifetime guaranteed commitment, ASCOT can never go back on this and

remove a trail, even if the list gets too big over time and no longer serves the purpose for which it was intended.

**3. Current position positives:**

- a. Land managers only have to complete a nomination form once in their lifetime. This one time only for life is believed to encourage land managers to submit nominations. Without a lifetime commitment on the list, it is thought that none or few land managers will bother to do the work to file a nomination form. In spite of the many benefits of being on the list.

**Why are we not creating some type of system so other than the original 63 trails can be placed on the list and still keeping the number at 100?**

Only one reason. That reason is the assumption that land managers will not think the benefits of a guarantee of being on this list for only 3-5 years is worth the time to complete the nomination form. That assumption has never been researched proven.

This current position is creating all of the negatives above for what may be an incorrect assumption. What if the land managers were supplied with a well-drafted long-term plan showing all short and long-term benefits to being on the list. This plan would include aspects on the suggestions shown below. Would they now be excited about getting on the list even if it may only be for 3-5 initial years? I think they would believe it is worth the time and effort. I believe the land managers are experience enough to see beyond the short term work involve to obtain the many benefit to being on the PREMIER list.

**The following are suggested modifications to the Premier Trail List Plan that would address many of the potential concerns.**

- 1) A trail would be guaranteed to remain on the list at least for 3-5 years. I suggest 3 years is long enough to justify the work considering the benefits. We don't want the list to get stale.
- 2) At the end of the initial term, ASCOT would review the trail nomination forms that it received at that time. It would then evaluate those nominations to determine how many, if any, would qualify to get on the list. If there were less than 35 that qualified, there would only be a need to remove that number from the current list to make room for the newly qualified trails. Some process would be developed to determine which trails would be removed. It could be random or some other factors could be developed. It is very possible that many trails would remain on the list for many more years than their initial term.
- 3) Those trails that were removed from the list could still advertise that they had been a Premier Trail. It may be that some "alumni list", or other name be maintained for Trails removed from the list.

- 4) Those trails that were removed from the list may reapply in 2 or so years for readmittance to the list. They would be evaluated along with the other nominations received for that year.

**What are the benefits to being on the Arizona Premier List?**

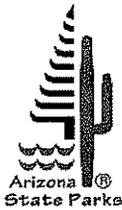
- 1) The prestige to being named to such a select group of trails.
- 2) The ability to promote and advertise the trail as a Premier Trail.
- 3) The expected increase in revenue from being on the list.
- 4) The ability to state that the trail is on the list to help in applying for grants and aid.
- 5) The ability to state that the trail is on the list to help in justifying an increase, or in the very least, not a reduction, in the budget for that land manager.
- 6) Increase in visitors and tourism in the area.
- 7) The greater ability to attract volunteers and friends groups to aid your trail in numerous ways.
- 8) The spillover of the prestige to other trails in the land manager's jurisdiction.
- 9) The prestige to the land manager to have one of his/her trail on the list.
- 10) Other
- 11) Other
- 12) Other

**What is the downside to adopting some form of the suggested modifications listed above?**

- 1) Few or no land managers submit a nomination form because the 3-5 year guarantee was not worth the work and benefits.
- 2) If that occurred, ASCOT would revise the plan to encourage nominations. Isn't being able to adjust the plan better than to be locked into a plan that is guaranteed to grow out of control or stale.

If we create a plan that requires a lifetime guarantee before anyone will apply for it, then we are creating a product that does not have any short or medium term benefits. If we have a product with no short or medium term benefits, then we need to rethink the product and develop short and medium term, as well as long-term benefits. Or we need to better market the many existing short and medium term benefits.

**Arizona State Committee on Trails Report  
Agenda Item #: E3**



**Title:** Update on the 2015 Trails Plan  
**Staff Lead:** Mickey Rogers, Grants Coordinator  
**Date:** November 1, 2014

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**Status to Date:**

Arizona State Parks entered into an agreement with Arizona State University to assist with the survey portions and data collection. The different aspects of the survey process are listed below.

As of January 31, 2014 1,604 Arizona residents had completed a random sample telephone survey of Arizona households (1). The goal was to receive 3,200 completed surveys from the general household survey. The timeline for data collection was extended due to the lower than expected response rate. Of 597 invitations sent to targeted users (2) in November 2013 200 surveys were completed. In addition 1,701 public surveys (3) were completed through the link on the Arizona State Parks website. Finally, 111 Land Manager surveys (4) were completed.

Dr. Megha Budruk of ASU provided preliminary results for the household, public and targeted user surveys at the April 17 AORCC meeting and on April 18 the State Recreation Trails Advisory Committee (which includes ASCOT) was updated on the preliminary data and progress of the Trails 2015 Plan.

**Surveys:**

1. Random Sample Telephone Arizona Households – The first survey of “Random Households” focuses on the general public to determine what percent of Arizona’s population consider themselves motorized or non-motorized trail users, and then, determine trail participation rates, attitudes and preferences regarding numerous trail issues.
2. Targeted Group of Trail Enthusiasts Web Survey – The same questions asked of the public in the Random Household will be asked of a targeted group of motorized and non-motorized trail users. These users are typically more involved in their chosen trail activity than a casual trail user, they tend to participate in trail activities more often, and they often belong to a trail/OHV related club or organization.
3. Public Trails Web Survey through Arizona State Parks Website – The same survey will be available to any interested party through an online survey posted on the ASP website and E-mail notices of the “open” trails survey will be sent to a large list of individuals and organizations related to trail and OHV issues.
4. Land Manager Trail Web Survey – Land managers with responsibility for multiple aspects of recreational trail and OHV resources in Arizona were

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asked to respond to an online survey that focused on trail issues from a management perspective.

Drafting of the 2015 Trails Plan has been delayed. Although ARS § 41-511.22 and ARS § 41-511.04 (20) states that Arizona State Parks will complete a trails plan every five years the implementation date is not specified in the legislation. Staff is recommending a revised completion and implementation date of February 28, 2015.

**Schedule For Completion:**

A draft of the Trails 2015 Plan will be available for A 30-day public comment period beginning October 22. All advisory groups will be asked to submit their comments during this period. Public and advisory group comments will be integrated into the document which will be finalized and presented to AORCC, ASCOT and OHVAG in January. The final plan will be presented to the State Parks Board on February 18, 2015 for approval with implementation planned for no later than February 28, 2015. The grants staff will then use the updated priorities identified in the plan with additional input from the advisory committees to establish the grant criteria for future motorized and non-motorized grant cycles.

**Relevant Past Board Actions:**

The Parks Board approved the 2010 plan at the November 2009 meeting.