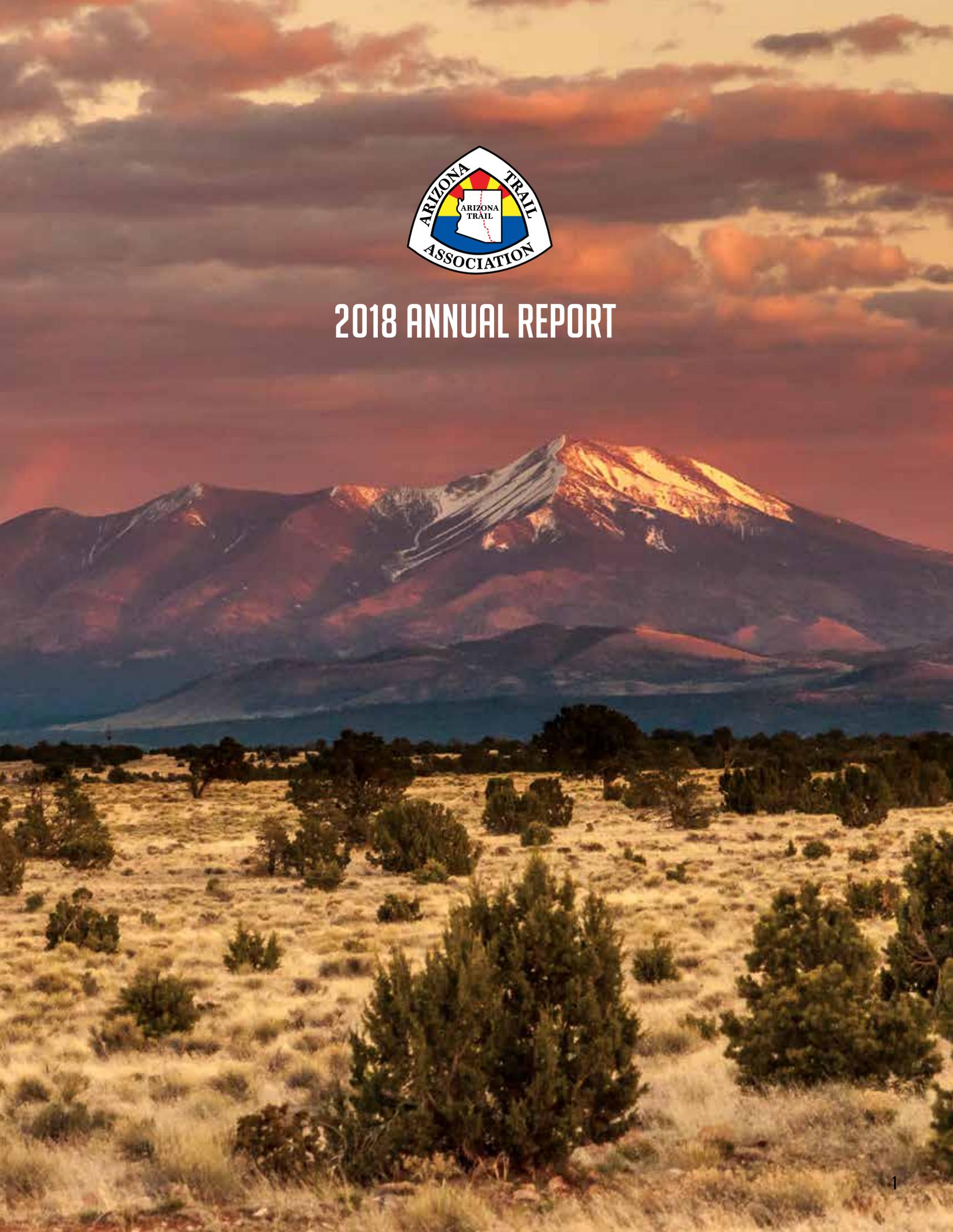




# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## LEADERSHIP

THE ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION IS GRATEFUL FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, AND ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OVER THE PAST YEAR.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## MISSION

TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN, ENHANCE, PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN THE ARIZONA TRAIL AS A UNIQUE ENCOUNTER WITH THE LAND.

## VISION

A CONTINUOUS, NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL TRAVERSING 800 MILES FROM MEXICO TO UTAH, LINKING DESERTS, MOUNTAINS, FORESTS, CANYONS, COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE.



Dear Friend of the Arizona Trail,

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Beyond all the wonderful food, reconnecting with friends and family, and enjoying the perfect weather that southern Arizona offers during that season, Thanksgiving has its origins in acts of kindness. For me, Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to participate in an experience that nourishes the body and spirit. Usually, after it's all over and the dishes have been washed and the smell of pumpkin pie still lingers in the air, I lament that it only happens once a year.

But recently, after a long day of working on the Arizona Trail with a group of volunteers and Arizona Trail Association staff, we gathered around a table in the woods to share a hard-earned meal. The sights, smells and sentiments reminded me of Thanksgiving. It was then that I realized the absolute joy we were all experiencing was more than just the serotonin released in our brains from getting our hands dirty or the endorphins that flow from time spent outdoors and good hard work. It was more than that. Caring for a trail that will positively affect the lives of countless hikers, runners, mountain bikers, equestrians, and wildlife provided its own nourishment. It was an act of kindness.

Please enjoy this Annual Report and the details of our successes over the past year, knowing that your support makes it all possible. Every minor improvement to the trail—every rock kicked off the path, every catclaw acacia removed from the corridor, every new gate or sign installed—is a result of your dollars donated and hours spent volunteering in support of our mission to protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land. I encourage you to read about some of our proudest accomplishments of the year, including highlights from our Trail Operations and Youth Outreach and Stewardship programs.

The Arizona Trail Association has a long history of creating positive bonds between people and the landscapes that make Arizona unique. We do more than just build and maintain trail; engage volunteers in the stewardship of their public lands; fight for access and protection; introduce youth to the wild lands in their backyard; work with communities to benefit from the outdoor recreation industry; produce maps and information so people can confidently explore the backbone of the state; and promote the AZT as the gem of the National Trails System. We do all that and much more every day...but what we really provide is a pathway for transformative experiences. And if you think that time spent exploring the Arizona Trail is pleasant, I encourage you to try volunteering. Like so many other trail stewards have discovered, it's even better than a hike or ride.

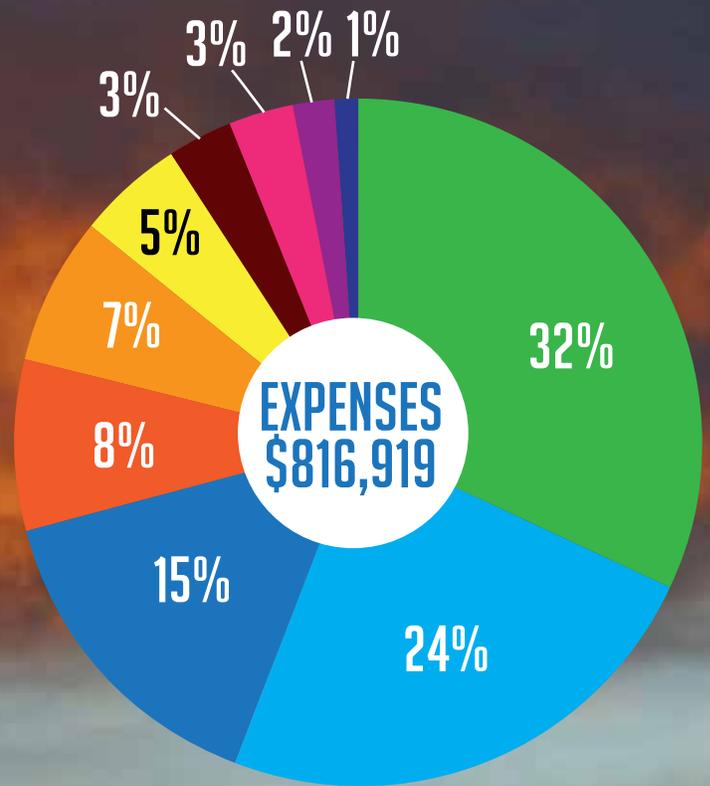
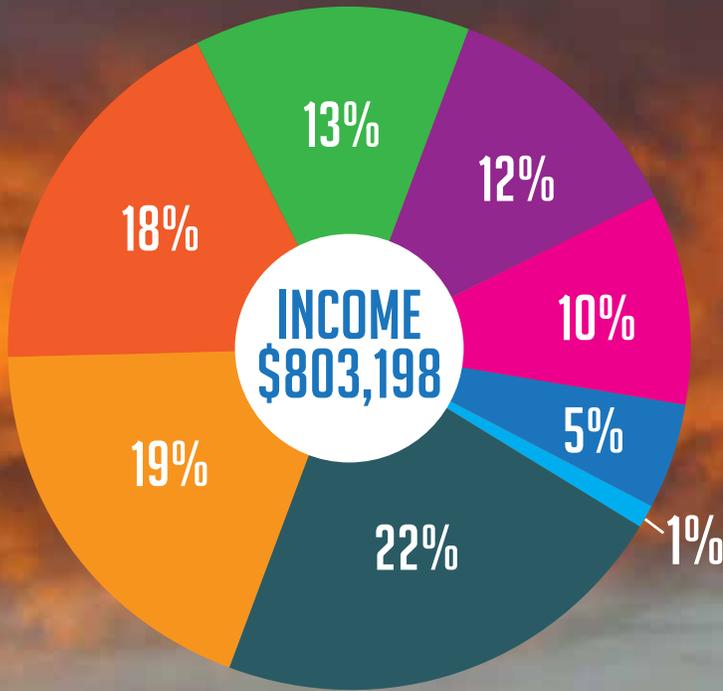
Please be sure to review some of our goals for 2019 on Page 14. You'll see we have some pretty ambitious plans for trail construction to improve the AZT. I sincerely hope you'll participate in these endeavors, and be part of the enduring legacy of the Arizona Trail.

With gratitude,

Matthew J. Nelson  
Executive Director

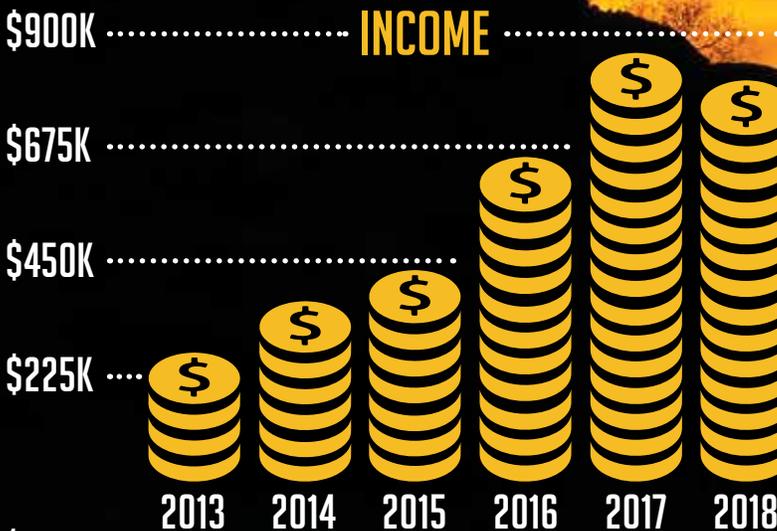
**“WILDERNESS IS NOT A LUXURY BUT A NECESSITY OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT, AND AS VITAL TO OUR LIVES AS WATER AND GOOD BREAD. A CIVILIZATION WHICH DESTROYS WHAT LITTLE REMAINS OF THE WILD, THE SPARE, THE ORIGINAL, IS CUTTING ITSELF OFF FROM ITS ORIGINS AND BETRAYING THE PRINCIPLE OF CIVILIZATION ITSELF.” - EDWARD ABBEY**

# 2018 FINANCIALS



- FEDERAL GRANTS
- GRANTS
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- BUSINESS PARTNERS & CORPORATE SUPPORT
- INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- MEMBERSHIP
- MERCHANDISE
- OTHER

- PAYROLL & GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES
- TRAIL OPERATIONS
- SEEDS OF STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- FUNDRAISING
- CONSULTANTS & CONTRACTORS
- WEBSITE, MAPS & PUBLIC INFORMATION
- MERCHANDISE
- MEMBERSHIP
- GATEWAY COMMUNITIES



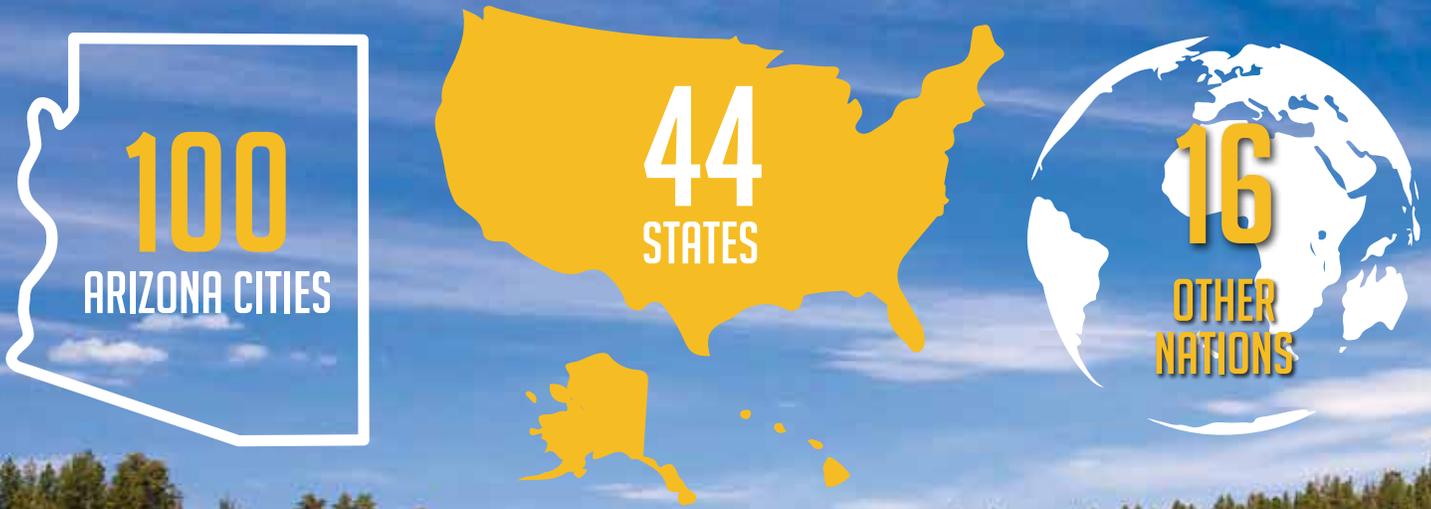
Due to the US Forest Service's 9-month delay in signing a \$105,000 challenge cost share agreement, compounded by invoices not being processed during the partial government shutdown in December, the ATA operated at a loss in 2018.

# MEMBERSHIP

Arizona Trail Association membership continues to increase steadily. New memberships and renewals occur on a daily basis, solidifying the network of individuals that sustain the Arizona Trail. The ATA offers a variety of membership levels and benefits, from the \$20 Prickly Pear level up to the \$2,500 Bristlecone Pine level, with special premiums offered to members donating at higher levels.



## MEMBERS FROM



# MISSION RESPONSIBILITY HIGHLIGHTS

THE ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION IS THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN, ENHANCE, PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN THE ARIZONA TRAIL AS A UNIQUE ENCOUNTER WITH THE LAND. EACH YEAR, THE ATA MAKES GREAT STRIDES FORWARD WITHIN EACH OF THESE MISSION RESPONSIBILITIES. HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018:

## PROTECT

The ATA believes that the most effective way to protect the Arizona Trail is by engaging thousands of individuals in the exploration, appreciation and stewardship of the trail. In addition to volunteer engagement, media outreach, special events, youth outdoor programs, gateway community relationship building, and promotion, the ATA worked closely with federal land management agencies to integrate long-term trail corridor protection strategies into their management plans.

The ATA met with private companies whose proposed activities may have adverse impacts to the Arizona Trail to ensure impacts will be minimized and, if their project is approved, there will be a net gain to trail resources. The ATA also wrote dozens of comment letters to federal land management agencies to help them better understand how proposed actions may impact the trail and trail users.

In addition, the ATA advocated for reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which – if reauthorized by Congress after it expired in September – could provide a funding source to purchase land near the Arizona Trail's most vulnerable areas for long-term trail corridor protection. ATA leadership met with members of the State Legislature and Congressional Delegation to reinvigorate their interest in the Arizona Trail, an important step in protecting the trail into the future.

## MAINTAIN

Since 1994, the ATA has trained and coordinated tens of thousands of volunteers to help build and maintain the Arizona Trail. In 2018 alone, 2,171 volunteers contributed over 27,500 hours of service,

valued at \$650,000. The number of individuals and groups that care for specific segments of trail has nearly doubled over the past year – with 195 Segment Stewards now in place.

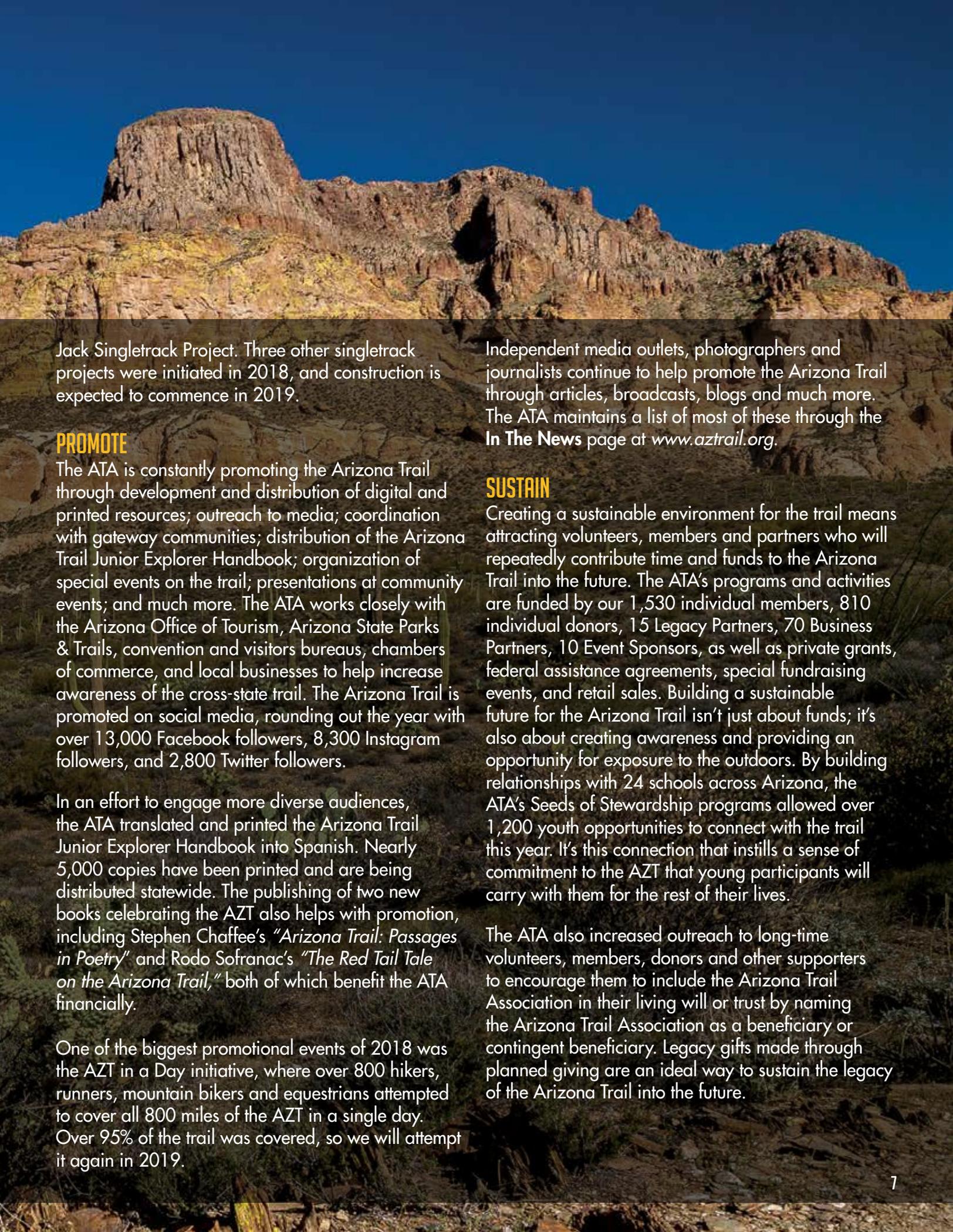
For projects beyond the reach of volunteers, the ATA hired young professionals from various conservation corps to address priority maintenance projects along some of the most remote segments of the trail. The ATA also contracted a mini-excavator operator for specific projects outside wilderness areas where a small machine works wonders when it comes to moving tons of dirt, large boulders, and intensive rockwork.

The ATA continues to work with each land management agency to help them direct their own resources to passages most in need of maintenance, and encourage them to apply for federal funding the ATA is not eligible to receive. In 2018, over \$300,000 was spent by our federal partners on conservation corps working to maintain and improve the AZT.

## ENHANCE

Protecting and maintaining the trail is paramount, but the ATA is also committed to improving the AZT. Enhancements include improved water resources; upgraded trailhead and navigational signs; development of digital navigational resources; and replacing old gates with steel AZT Super Gates to protect the trail from motorized abuse while accommodating the needs of all trail users, including Americans with disabilities.

The ATA has also been working to remove the AZT from dirt roads by building sustainable trail nearby, and great progress has been made on the Happy



Jack Singletrack Project. Three other singletrack projects were initiated in 2018, and construction is expected to commence in 2019.

## PROMOTE

The ATA is constantly promoting the Arizona Trail through development and distribution of digital and printed resources; outreach to media; coordination with gateway communities; distribution of the Arizona Trail Junior Explorer Handbook; organization of special events on the trail; presentations at community events; and much more. The ATA works closely with the Arizona Office of Tourism, Arizona State Parks & Trails, convention and visitors bureaus, chambers of commerce, and local businesses to help increase awareness of the cross-state trail. The Arizona Trail is promoted on social media, rounding out the year with over 13,000 Facebook followers, 8,300 Instagram followers, and 2,800 Twitter followers.

In an effort to engage more diverse audiences, the ATA translated and printed the Arizona Trail Junior Explorer Handbook into Spanish. Nearly 5,000 copies have been printed and are being distributed statewide. The publishing of two new books celebrating the AZT also helps with promotion, including Stephen Chaffee's *Arizona Trail: Passages in Poetry* and Rodo Sofranac's *The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail*, both of which benefit the ATA financially.

One of the biggest promotional events of 2018 was the AZT in a Day initiative, where over 800 hikers, runners, mountain bikers and equestrians attempted to cover all 800 miles of the AZT in a single day. Over 95% of the trail was covered, so we will attempt it again in 2019.

Independent media outlets, photographers and journalists continue to help promote the Arizona Trail through articles, broadcasts, blogs and much more. The ATA maintains a list of most of these through the **In The News** page at [www.aztrail.org](http://www.aztrail.org).

## SUSTAIN

Creating a sustainable environment for the trail means attracting volunteers, members and partners who will repeatedly contribute time and funds to the Arizona Trail into the future. The ATA's programs and activities are funded by our 1,530 individual members, 810 individual donors, 15 Legacy Partners, 70 Business Partners, 10 Event Sponsors, as well as private grants, federal assistance agreements, special fundraising events, and retail sales. Building a sustainable future for the Arizona Trail isn't just about funds; it's also about creating awareness and providing an opportunity for exposure to the outdoors. By building relationships with 24 schools across Arizona, the ATA's Seeds of Stewardship programs allowed over 1,200 youth opportunities to connect with the trail this year. It's this connection that instills a sense of commitment to the AZT that young participants will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

The ATA also increased outreach to long-time volunteers, members, donors and other supporters to encourage them to include the Arizona Trail Association in their living will or trust by naming the Arizona Trail Association as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary. Legacy gifts made through planned giving are an ideal way to sustain the legacy of the Arizona Trail into the future.



# TRAIL OPERATIONS

In addition to ongoing efforts of trail stewards, hiking groups, saddle clubs, mountain biking teams, trail running groups, rock climbing organizations, Boy Scouts, gateway community members, the Usual Suspects, myriad others who helped make the ATA's Trail Operations program successful, the ATA contracted conservation corps to do some of the heavy lifting in 2018. These include young professionals from American Conservation Experience, Arizona Conservation Corps, and Conservation Legacy's Ancestral Lands Crews.

Each of the AZT's 43 passages received maintenance in 2018, but here are just a few of our proudest accomplishments:

## HAPPY JACK SINGLETRACK

With support from the Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest, we are embarking on a project to remove the AZT from 18 miles of dirt roads by building fresh singletrack. This year, over 3 miles were constructed with the help of hundreds of volunteers. We also installed 10 gates, 5 signs directing trail users to water sources, and 2 kiosks on the Happy Jack Passage.

## MAZATZAL SPRING RESTORATION

Water can be hard to find on the AZT. That's why we've been putting additional resources into improving existing water sources for the benefit of trail users, wildlife, and the natural environment itself. In 2018, we helped restore two springs in the Mazatzal Wilderness that were negatively impacted by wildfire and subsequent erosion events. Along with hard work from young Native American conservation corps members, the ATA restored Hopi and Chilson Springs.

## FOUR PEAKS MAINTENANCE

When thru-hikers reported that the Four Peaks Passage of the AZT was the most overgrown of the entire 800-mile trail in 2017, we made maintenance of this scenic wilderness passage a priority. Thanks to grant funding secured by the Tonto National Forest, every inch of the 19 miles between Roosevelt Dam and Pigeon Spring has been maintained or improved by conservation corps members.

## NORTHERN TERMINUS MONUMENT

Until 2018, the Arizona National Scenic Trail was without a monument at the northern terminus. Thanks to master stonemason Carlos Rodriguez, a sandstone obelisk now marks the "end of the trail" at the Arizona/Utah border. Its dimensions match Border Monument 102 at the AZT's southern terminus, and has quickly become one of the most photographed features on the Arizona Trail.

## PUSCH RIDGE WILDERNESS MAINTENANCE

Over one million visitors enjoy trails within Sabino Canyon every year, but the 5.4 miles of Arizona Trail between Sabino Basin and Gordon Hirabayashi Trailhead don't see many boots and have been relatively neglected for years. With support from committed volunteers, trail runners, mountain bikers and some funding from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance the ATA restored the AZT within this scenic and historically significant area. One volunteer vacation supported by a string of horses packing in supplies, a few work weekends, and numerous youth group contributions helped restore this portion of trail.



## **NORTH KAIBAB TRAILHEAD FENCES**

The iconic log fences at AZT Trailheads on the Kaibab Plateau had deteriorated and were in need of replacement. So the North Kaibab Ranger District salvaged local trees that had been cut as part of a forest thinning project, then had them cut and delivered to the Orderville and East Rim View Trailheads. ATA volunteers rallied during the pleasant summer months to move the logs into position and create fences that are as strong as they are aesthetically pleasing. These National Park quality fences will help protect the natural and cultural resources near the trailheads for many years.

## **STEEL AZT SIGNS**

With support from a Recreational Trails Program grant secured by the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona, the ATA installed 15 steel signs with the AZT logo prominently featured. This increases awareness of the Arizona National Scenic Trail on these popular trails near Tucson, and replaces the deteriorating brown fiberglass markers with permanent signs that will stand the test of time.

## **BUTTERFLY TRAIL REHABILITATION**

The Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bypass (Passage 11a) is a scenic portion of the AZT through the Santa Catalina Mountains. It's the best route for mountain bikers to follow to avoid the designated wilderness nearby and is preferred among equestrians since the heart of Passage 11 is too treacherous for equines. But failing tread and extreme overgrowth has kept anyone other than adventurous hikers from enjoying this path. With support from local volunteers, conservation corps and grants from Summit Hut, Mountain Hardwear and the Coronado National Forest, the ATA transformed over 5 miles of the Butterfly Trail.

## **ORACLE AREA IMPROVEMENTS**

Thanks to the SaddleBrooke Hiking Club, the Oracle Passage gets better all the time. The committed group worked diligently on two minor re-routes to improve sustainability of the trail. In addition, the ATA hired a machine operator to remove tons of sand from the culvert under Highway 77 in the springtime – allowing safe passage for trail users. A crew from the Arizona Department of Transportation cleaned it out again after monsoon storms filled the culvert with sand again. Our friends at Oracle State Park finished construction of a tent camping area in 2018 as well.

## **AZT SUPER GATES**

Working with master metalsmith Rob Bauer, the ATA has developed a heavy-duty steel gate that prevents OHVs from negatively impacting the Arizona Trail. These gates are easy to open and close, meet the needs of all trail users (including fully-loaded packstock and off-road wheelchairs) and will last for 100 years or longer. In 2018, we installed a total of 15 AZT Super Gates. That makes a total of 71 steel gates on the AZT and its connector trails since undertaking this effort five years ago.

## **GILA RIVER CANYONS MAINTENANCE**

Passage 16 of the AZT is among the most remote and photogenic of any along the 800-mile Arizona Trail, but getting volunteers into the farthest regions of this area to conduct routine trail maintenance has been challenging. With funding from the Bureau of Land Management, the ATA hired a crew to repair erosion damage on 7 miles of trail. The trail along the Gila River has been consistently maintained and repaired by volunteers and trail crews, and is now in prime condition.



# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteerism isn't just another part of what the ATA does – it is the driving force that powers our accomplishments. Arizona Trail volunteers achieve all the goals put forth in our mission statement, from promoting the trail at outreach events to rebuilding tread lost to erosion. Our community of well trained, passionate individuals also supports running and participatory events, mailings and office work, fundraising and youth engagement, as well as directly supporting trail users through our Trail Angel program. It takes the energy of a committed community to keep the dream of the Arizona Trail a physical reality. 2,171 volunteers reported more than 27,500 hours of work to the ATA in 2018 – the equivalent of more than \$650,000. Once again, we recognize that much of the work done by stewards and other volunteers goes unreported and that actual contributions are far higher.

**2,171 VOLUNTEERS**  
**27,500 HOURS**  
**\$650,000 VALUE**

The Trail Skills Institute continues to garner national attention as a unique partnership offering professional quality instruction to volunteer trail workers. With the help of volunteer instructors from the American Conservation Experience (ACE), the Trail Skills Institute offers four modules of hands-on education, including discussion of landscape context, arid lands hydrology, corridor maintenance, stone masonry techniques and re-route design. In 2018 we were able to offer four sessions and trained 45 volunteers. Participants traveled from four states and three government agencies to take advantage of these unique courses. National interest in the program led to representatives from ACE and the ATA being invited to present on the Trail Skills Institute at the 2018 Partnership for the National Trails System Conference.

In an effort to reach an even larger community of potential volunteers and future stewards, we

implemented a new online volunteer management system in September of 2018. This new program integrates volunteer recruitment, event management and hours tracking into one powerful tool, and the ability to advertise and report volunteer participation on a mobile friendly, social media integrated platform is helping us reach a younger and more diverse audience of trail users.

The Volunteer Program strives to go beyond hosting events and recruiting trail workers; it seeks to promote community among enthusiastic and well-trained volunteers. The ATA's Trail Steward program offers select volunteers a leadership role within this community. The 195 Segment Stewards have made a multi-year commitment to monitor and maintain a designated section of the trail. Five Regional Stewards support the Segment Stewards and coordinate efforts on the regional level to ensure a positive experience for trail users. Twice annually, the ATA hosts a Steward Conference which serves as both a training opportunity and a team building experience. The conferences highlight various Gateway Communities and ATA Business Partners to further strengthen the network of support for the trail. In 2018, 40 Stewards attended these sessions.

Our Volunteer Vacations offer a unique opportunity for volunteers to not only give back to larger projects but also to develop their own skills and connections within the trail community. These four-to-six day events are an immersive experience, and for many the reward is the friendships they make as much as the tread they build. Three Volunteer Vacations contributed 1,200 hours of volunteer labor to projects in the Superstition Wilderness, Coconino National Forest, and Santa Catalina Mountains.



# SEEDS OF STEWARDSHIP



In Southern Arizona, Seeds of Stewardship brought 332 students from 29 classes on 129 expeditions, and hiked nearly 10,000 collective miles! Working with class sizes that average 15 participants, SOS is able to engage, educate, and hike further.

This year, we put intense focus into designing a curriculum that would educate students on the incredible ecology and history of the Sonoran Desert. By doing this on the Arizona Trail, we are showing students that the AZT is the gateway into an amazing landscape full of exploration, freedom, history, and knowledge. This curriculum has been so successful that schools have begun to work with us to adapt their school curriculum to be parallel with ours.

Our work with young people is also providing behavior transformations, and schools are taking notice. This year, we were unable to supply the demand – SOS is so sought after that waiting lists and school rotation strategies have been put in place. Impressed with the work we are doing, we now have a multi-year partnership with the Phoenix Zoo that will help provide more resources, education, and inspiration to students of Southern Arizona.

With funding from the Coronado National Forest, we employed a group of high schoolers to work on the Arizona Trail. The Coronado Youth Corps provided weekend work opportunities on public land, and together they maintained or improved nearly 50 miles of trail. This is a full circle approach that will bring students back to the ATA as volunteers, advocates and perhaps employees in the future.

In Northern Arizona, the Seeds of Stewardship program served 21 classes from 10 different schools. In total, 876 students collectively hiked or biked 2,472 miles and spent 3,819 hours improving the Arizona Trail. The most exciting parts of the program are not the numbers, however. The most exciting part is the growth of the students along the way.

One example is a student from Flagstaff Montessori, who came to the first few outings in a state of near panic. The outdoors was so foreign to him just being in the woods pushed him to the outer limits of his comfort zone. Outing after outing we allowed him to just be, never pushing him to participate if he didn't want to, and listening to him talk about what interests him during quiet moments. Slowly, he has built the capacity to not only feel comfortable outdoors but to enjoy participating in activities with his classmates. This child may not become a lifelong outdoor enthusiast, but our public lands will no longer be a frightening mystery to him.

The teachers too, appreciate the opportunity for their students. Ms. Nadege Neta from Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy particularly appreciates that SOS outings don't place a financial burden on parents. "Sabrina organized a lot of field trips that were free of charge for my students. Being able to offer free field trips to my students is important because I want the students coming from more modest families to be able to experience the outdoors and have the same educational opportunities as the rest of the class."

In addition to school programming, Seeds of Stewardship had a massively successful summer partnership with American Conservation Experience putting together a Youth Conservation Corps for six high school students during which the group completed 1,463 hours of service work, over 1,000 of which were on the Arizona Trail.



With support from REI Co-op, the Arizona Trail Gear Girls finished out our first full year of programming and started into our second year during the autumn/winter season. Gear Girls uses mountain biking, trail work and snow sports to build confidence, outdoor competence, community and character in young women grades 4-8. Girls learn practical skills in trail building, mountain biking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing while absorbing lessons in mindfulness, teamwork, and determination that will prepare them for life's bigger challenges.

Winter was nearly devoid of snow so we did a lot of improvising to make the most of unseasonably warm weather. Even still, we managed to teach winter Leave No Trace fire building, navigation, winter adventure preparation, camp cooking, avalanche avoidance, and even strapped on snowshoes after snow finally fell on the forest. We finished off winter with a chilly overnight camping trip at the Kendrick Park Cabin.

In June, we led six intrepid young women on a five-night trip to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon where they had a chance to mountain bike on the Arizona Trail and the Rainbow Rim Trail, and spent a day hiking into Grand Canyon. In July, we capped off an incredible first year with a weeklong day camp experience during which we partnered with American Conservation Experience's High School Youth Conservation Corps to learn more about trail building. Participants helped build a portion of the new Happy 12

Jack Singletrack, and our Gear Girls had a chance to coach the Youth Corps on how to mountain bike. It was truly inspiring to see 10- to 12-year-old young women fearlessly sharing their immense body of knowledge with older students.

We know this program is impactful not just because of the growth we have seen in the girls, but because of the buzz generated within our community. We have been approached by countless media outlets asking to feature our program, including KNAU, the local NPR station. In addition, the Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival chose Gear Girls as a beneficiary for a recent community adventure film event.

"I have to say, this is truly the best girls program we have ever enrolled any of our kiddos in. You are on the right track – teaching girls to do things that they would have to ask a boy to do is an incredible method to empower the female role, while not minimizing a male role. CJ has absolutely loved her experience with Gear Girls and instead of coming home and telling her brothers that "girls rule," she's coming home and saying "I can do that, too."

– Jen Runge,  
Parent of a Gear Girl

One girl has told us several times how much she gets bullied at school, how the other kids pick on her for being overweight and awkward. She also had never ridden a mountain bike before, nor done any real hiking or camping. But this same girl comes out to every Gear Girls opportunity, and we're certain that she is taking those risks despite it not being her

natural talent, because of the environment that has been created at Gear Girls: supportive, caring, non-judgmental, and fun!

In 2018, Gear Girls served 49 young women. They contributed a total of 308 hours of service to trail building, repair and maintenance.

# ARIZONA TRAIL PARTNERSHIPS



In 2018, the Arizona Trail Association expanded on the idea of partnering with various businesses to create sustainable relationships through AZT branded products, programs and services that promote the Arizona Trail and provide direct financial benefit.



The folks at AZT Expeditions allow you to hike, run or ride some of the

greatest portions of the Arizona National Scenic Trail without carrying the weight! AZT Expeditions is a partnership between the ATA and Hermosa Tours, LLC. Working together, we have designed separate itineraries for hikers, mountain bikers and trail runners which feature some of the most scenic passages of the Arizona Trail. You get to enjoy the trail with a day pack while they haul your gear to camp each night.



Tucson's adventure gear and outdoor clothing specialists continually find ways to support the ATA and get people excited about the

AZT! Summit Hut forged a partnership with The North Face, with 100% of sales from their AZT Photobomb hats benefitting the ATA. They also co-sponsored a grant with Mountain Hardware, providing quality gear for volunteers and cash for our Volunteer Program. Summit Hut is also a presenting sponsor of three of our trail running events; they co-host volunteer trail maintenance efforts; and are constantly encouraging their industry partners to support the ATA.



Rodo Sofranac wrote and published the first children's book celebrating the Arizona Trail. "The Red Tail

Tale on the Arizona Trail" features photographs, illustrations, maps and educational information on 62 pages. It can be found online and at retail locations throughout Arizona, and up to 100% of proceeds benefit the ATA's youth programs.



Through three large grant awards in 2018, REI Co-op donated a total of \$87,000 in support of trail maintenance and

enhancement efforts as well as our Gear Girls Program. REI Co-op was also the title sponsor of our inaugural AZT in a Day event. Financial contributions and REI Co-op's capacity to attract new volunteers helped make our biggest projects of 2018 a grand success.



George and Jalene Harris are longtime trail stewards and supporters of the Arizona Trail, and

are known internationally for their custom mountain bike frames. When customers choose a special Arizona Trail headtube for their new bike frame, Binary Bicycles donates 100% of the proceeds to the ATA. This raises funds for our Trail Operations program and increases awareness of the AZT as a premier mountain bike destination.



# PRIORITY PROJECTS - 2019

The Arizona Trail may be a complete path from Mexico to Utah, but there is much room for improvement. Each year, the Arizona Trail Association identifies top priorities for the year ahead to support the mission and vision of the organization, as well as the current strategic plan. Here's a sneak peek at the most important Trail Operations projects we will be undertaking in 2019.

## **1. Canelo Hills Singletrack - Passages 2-3 Coronado National Forest**

Construct 4.6 miles of singletrack to replace dirt roads, arroyos and unsustainable trail.

## **2. Rainwater Collector - Passage 17 Tonto National Forest**

Fabricate and install a rainwater catchment system along one of the driest segments of the AZT.

## **3. Happy Jack Singletrack - Passage 28 Coconino National Forest**

Continue trail construction, installation of gates and signs, and trailhead development in support of this 18-mile endeavor to replace dirt roads with singletrack.

## **4. Babbitt Ranch Singletrack - Passage 35 Babbitt Ranches & Coconino County**

Construct 13 miles of trail to replace dirt roads on the CO Bar Ranch.

## **5. Oak Tree Canyon Trailhead - Passage 6 Coronado National Forest**

Develop a trailhead at Oak Tree Canyon to provide better access to the Arizona Trail near Sonoita.

## **6. Pipeline Singletrack - Passage 15 BLM, Pinal County, Arizona State Land**

Complete construction of 3.6 miles of trail to remove the AZT from powerline and gasline roads.

## **7. Alder Ridge Re-Route - Passage 25 Tonto National Forest**

Develop final route for NEPA analysis to support singletrack construction in the Mazatzal Wilderness to remove the AZT from a powerline road near the town of Pine.

## **8. Kaibab Re-Route - Passages 36-37 Kaibab National Forest**

Develop route to remove the AZT from dirt roads and build singletrack between Watson Tank and Tusayan.

## **9. Harshaw Road Trail - Passage 3 Santa Cruz County**

Help build a 3-mile trail to get the AZT off Harshaw Road between Harshaw Road Trailhead and the town of Patagonia.

## **10. Temporal Gulch Re-Route - Passage 4 Coronado National Forest**

Coordinate the NEPA effort to support realignment of the AZT along Passage 4, which will allow 18 miles of singletrack construction from Red Bank Well to Tunnel Spring to replace paved and dirt roads.



# BUSINESS PARTNERS

ARIZONA BUSINESSES AND CLUBS THAT SUPPORT THE ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL LEAVE A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

## LEGACY PARTNERS



*Wheeler Foundation*



### PONDEROSA PINE PARTNERS (\$1,000 DONATION)

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534 N. STONE AVENUE - TUCSON, AZ 85705  
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