

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

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

VISION

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



It's just before sunrise on the Arizona Trail on a brisk winter morning and I'm motivated to keep moving in order to stay warm. As dirt crunches under my boots, the sonic landscape quickly transforms from complete silence to a symphony of birds welcoming the sun. As soon as the bright orange rays break over the mountains I'm bathed in warmth and pause to peel off a layer.

Watching the desert come to life is beautiful, inspiring, and a reminder of the rich experiences that happen whenever we spend time in nature. I'm so grateful the Arizona Trail exists to provide moments like this, and since trails don't build and maintain themselves, I'm deeply grateful for all who work to build, maintain, fund, protect and improve this 800-mile path between Mexico and Utah — people like you.

As you will see within this year's Annual Report, the Arizona Trail Association has accomplished some incredible goals this year. Building new segments to improve safety and sustainability, maintaining hundreds of miles through volunteer projects, leading more youth outdoors, engaging veterans in the enjoyment and maintenance of the trail, studying wildlife that utilize the trail, and working with elected leaders to ensure the AZT remains a priority are just a few things we are proud of. As a supporter of the ATA, we hope you're proud, too.

Every year, we are reminded of the power of the trail's impact on individuals. Those stories — your stories — of magical moments are very important in demonstrating the real value of the AZT. So we invite you to share your stories with us through email, social media, videos, photos, or whatever media you'd like to use to tell your story. Whether you're a hiker or runner, mountain biker or equestrian, trail steward or conservation corps member, local business owner or trail angel, please help us tell the story of the Arizona Trail by sharing your experiences.

Trails have an incredible power to connect. I know I speak on behalf of the entire staff and board of directors when I say thank you for your enduring support. We hope to see you on the trail sometime soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Matthew J. Nelson
Executive Director

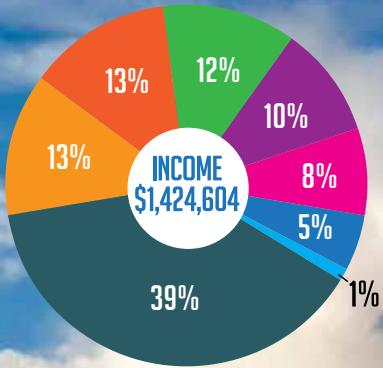
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dale Shewalter, Honorary Chairman of the Board
Susan Lagerman, President
Lisa Schnebly Heidinger, Secretary
Ambika Balasubramaniyan, Treasurer
Dana Ernst, Vice President of Trail Operations
Kait Boyle, Vice President of Policy & Advocacy
James Arndt, Board Member
Victoria Levin, Board Member
Phyllis Ralley, Board Member
Bianca Salazar, Board Member

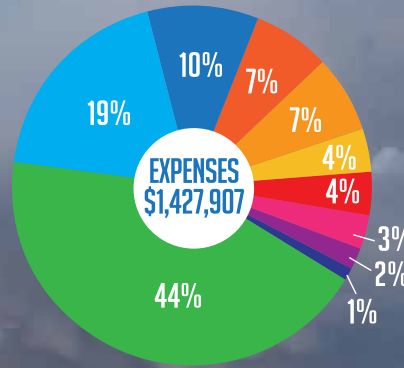
STAFF

Matthew Nelson, Executive Director
Karrie Kressler, Administrative Director
Zach MacDonald, Trail Director
Brittany Chavez, Development Director
Wendy Lotze, Volunteer Program Manager
Chrissy Fichter, Volunteer Engagement Specialist
Treven Hooker, Youth Outreach Coordinator (Southern AZ)
Clay Showalter, Youth Outreach Coordinator (Northern AZ)
Makenzie Mabery, Gear Girls Coordinator
Melissa Schwan, Youth Outreach Assistant (Southern AZ)
Sarah Dowling, Youth Outreach Assistant (Northern AZ)
Aaron Seifert, GIS Director
Michael "Chappy" Chappell, Veteran Outreach Coordinator
Shawn Redfield, Steward Extraordinaire
Rosi Green, Trail Technician
Tasha Pontifex, Field Coordinator - Southern Arizona
Olivia Woods, Field Coordinator - Northern Arizona
Chelsey Tellez, Wildlife Monitoring Coordinator
Donovan Caputo, Administrative Assistant
Shannon Villegas, Graphic Design & Social Media

2022 FINANCIALS

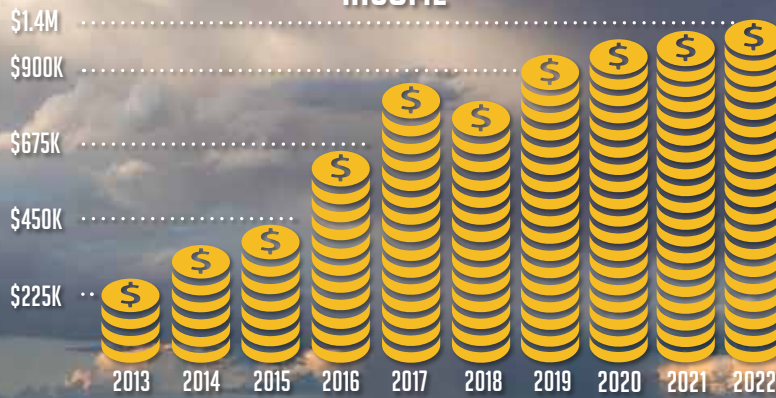


- GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- NON-GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- EVENTS
- CORP. DONATIONS & BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
- MEMBERSHIP
- INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
- MERCHANDISE
- OTHER

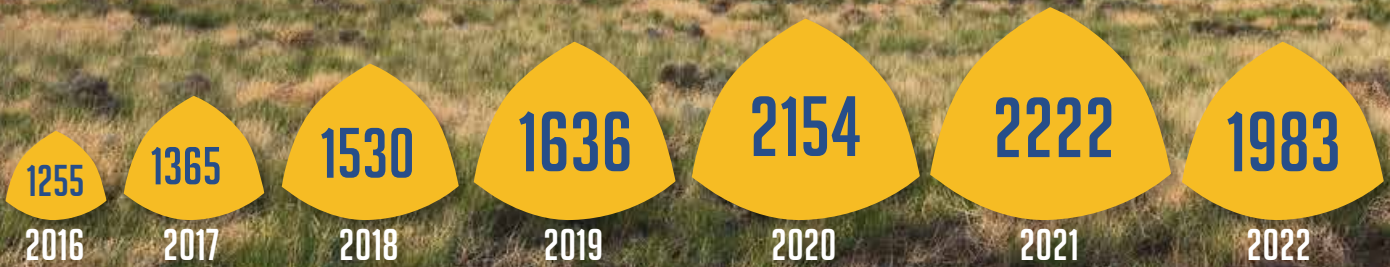


- TRAIL OPERATIONS
- ADMINISTRATION
- YOUTH PROGRAMS
- FUNDRAISING
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- VETS PROGRAM
- OTHER
- GATEWAY COMMUNITIES
- MERCHANDISE
- MEMBERSHIP

INCOME



MEMBERSHIP





VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteerism is at the heart of the Arizona Trail Association. It is only through the passion and dedication of those who love the trail that we are able to meet our mission and thrive into the future. It's almost impossible to separate out what the Volunteer Program has achieved because little of what is listed elsewhere in our report would have happened without the support of our community of dedicated volunteers. Volunteers are responsible for many of the achievements reported in Trail Operations; outreach volunteers promote the trail at community events; Trail Angels directly support trail users; and volunteers are key to administrative operations.

In 2022, more than 2,250 volunteers reported more than 22,500+ hours of AZT related work to the ATA. This is equivalent to more than 12 full time staff members. Additionally, these hours correspond to more than \$652,500 in donations. Impressive as they may be, these metrics fall short of illustrating the real value of volunteers and are incomplete due to unreported service time.

2,250 VOLUNTEERS
22,500+ HOURS
\$652,500 VALUE

Sharing the passion and love for the trail with a like-minded community is a part of what keeps volunteers returning to the ATA. Our Trail Steward program offers select volunteers an opportunity to expand their relationship with the trail and its community as volunteer leaders. In 2022, an impressive 16 new segment stewards were recruited and onboarded; bringing us to a grand total of 140 stewards. Each of these dedicated individuals have made a multi-year commitment to monitor and maintain a designated section of the trail. Seven Regional Stewards support the Segment Stewards and coordinate larger scale efforts to promote positive trail user experiences.

The ATA hosted two in-person Steward Conferences where attendees received advanced training and were celebrated for the extraordinary and ongoing commitment they offer the trail. Additionally, we hosted four online learning sessions to ensure that the entire steward community had access to advanced training and opportunities to engage with one another.

Our volunteer program hosted 73 single and multi-day events that engaged volunteers of all experience levels. To ensure our stewardship activities have the highest level of safety, fun and productivity, the ATA partners with Flagline Trails to provide professional-quality training opportunities to Stewards and volunteers. In 2022 we hosted eight Trail Skills Institute sessions for 52 passionate trail enthusiasts. These learning opportunities provide volunteers with advanced skills while providing a space to connect with the trail community. Additionally, our Virtual Trail Skills Video series had a whopping 1,000+ views online - expanding our reach to populations previously unable to access skills training.

Last year wasn't only busy on the AZT, we were busy off trail as well! In a continual effort to expand and strengthen our community, ATA volunteers and staff participated in multiple outreach events including Tucson Pride Festival. We hosted an LGBTQ+ trail work day and we continue to be engaged with Tucson's LGBT Chamber of Commerce. ATA established a new partnership with Bawker Bawker Cider House in Tucson to offer ADA accessible urban hikes where we shared information about the trail and volunteerism opportunities.



VETS PROGRAM



In service of nature. The mission of the Arizona Trail Association's VETS (Veteran Engagement & Trail Stewardship) Program is to connect those who have served our country with fellow service members and the Arizona National Scenic Trail. The VETS Program

creates meaningful opportunities for military veterans on and off the trail, offering participants a robust platform for continued service to our community and connecting with other members in a naturally therapeutic setting.

Veteran Volunteer Work Weekends (VWWW)

In April, veteran crews opened the ~1-mile section of new trail in Little Casa Blanca Canyon allocated to the VETS Program, finishing up more than a year's worth of dedication to the Temporal Gulch Reroute Project. We are very proud of this great achievement and look forward to making future improvements to P4 of the AZT. We also brought the AZT VETS crew to P42 of the AZT over Memorial Day weekend to build another reroute in Orderville Canyon. We partnered with VOAG (Veteran's Outdoor Advocacy Group) for this event – helping to bring mental health awareness through nature-based therapeutic outdoor adventures. This event was also part of VOAG's "31 for 31 Project" – remembering the lives lost in Afghanistan on Aug 6th, 2011 (callsign "Extortion 17"). Although we could not officially open the trail during this hitch, the VETS crew returned in early September to complete the reroute for the winter season.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- SUPPORTED 2 AZT WARRIOR HIKERS W/WARRIOR EXPEDITIONS
- FACILITATED 3 VETERAN VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKENDS
- RECRUITED 36 NEW VETERAN VOLUNTEERS
- 500+ COMBINED VOLUNTEER HOURS
- OVER 5 MILES OF IMPACTED TRAIL
- 2 NEW SECTIONS OF THE AZT COMPLETED (P4 & P42)
- DEVELOPMENT OF FOX SQUAD PROGRAM
- NEW COLLABORATIONS W/ VOAG, WILD AZ & TWO WOLF FOUNDATION



"Fox Squad" (Coronado)

This fall/winter, the VETS Program's newest initiative saw the first backcountry events on the Wilderness of Rock and West Fork Trails, respectively, in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. This new "branch" of the AZT VETS Program is made possible by a generous grant from the Coronado National Forest – enabling veterans to gain valuable soft and hard trail-building skills through deeper backcountry experiences – all while helping to improve the overall user experience on the AZT. Unlike other volunteer opportunities with the ATA, members of Fox Squad are paid contractor positions. As such, success is not measured by volunteer hours, but in miles of trail improved.

Collaborations

The AZT VETS partnered with many incredible organizations within the veteran community in 2022. Most notable was the first-ever Warrior Stewardship Class (WSC.001) with the Two Wolf Foundation based out of Hamilton, Montana. Brian Flynn and his team of six combat veterans drove 1,500 miles from the Bitterroot Valley in fully outfitted Overland rigs to join the AZT VETS in Tonto National Forest to continue rehabbing a section of the AZT south of Pigeon Spring.

In addition, we combined ongoing stewardship efforts with another trail organization, Wild Arizona, during this year's annual AZT in a Day event to help clear brush and repair sections of the Highline Trail near Christopher Creek outside Payson with an all-veteran crew!



"...I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I signed up. I had zero trail work experience, hadn't camped since I got injured overseas, and was wholly engrossed in my work without much balance afforded for fun. On the surface level, I was successful in my day-to-day life, but I lived in a work-life balance that left me lacking joy and fulfillment at the end of the week. After only one weekend on the trail with Chappy, I reconnected with music around the campfire and have been playing guitar every day since. I rekindled a love of the outdoors I had distanced myself from after the trauma of a TBI. Most importantly, I forged bonds of friendship with fellow veteran stewards, who I hope to keep for a lifetime."

- Derek Duba, United States Army Veteran

TRAIL OPERATIONS

Temporal Gulch Reroute Project

In anticipation of completion of the 32-mile Temporal Gulch Reroute Project in 2023, another 11.5 miles of new trail construction was completed. This includes 5 miles of the Temporal Gulch Connector, between the Temporal Gulch Trailhead to the AZT at the top of Little Casa Blanca Canyon, and another 6.5 miles of the new trail from Gardner Canyon to the top of Wood Canyon.

Trailhead Signs

To assist with navigation, celebrate local history, highlight regional wildlife, reinforce Leave No Trace and Share the Trail ethics, improve visitor experience, and to acknowledge the indigenous connection to the lands the AZT traverses, the ATA designed, fabricated and installed new trailhead signs at Casa Blanca Canyon, Temporal Gulch, Apache Spring, Oak Tree Canyon, Mills Ridge, Cross F, Deer Creek, Barnhardt, Doll Baby, City Creek, Geronimo, Alan Lake Landing, Walnut Canyon, Tusayan, Manzanita, and preserved the historic wooden sign from Orderville Trailhead.

Casa Blanca Canyon Trailhead

This half-acre trailhead was developed in generous partnership between the ATA and Wildlife Corridors who have worked to conserve the land in perpetuity. The ATA provided funding for earthwork, gravel, kiosk installation, gate and fence construction in exchange for permanent easement of the trailhead and 1.5 miles of new AZT which provides connectivity between the Sierra Vista and Nogales Districts of the Coronado National Forest.



Steel gate installation

Oak Tree Canyon Trailhead

A collaboration between the ATA and the Coronado National Forest, the Oak Tree Canyon Trailhead was completed this year. This trailhead was partially funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona and provides access to the AZT and the eastern foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains that was previously inaccessible.

Las Colinas Catclaw Removal

Arizona Conservation Corps worked for four weeks to remove thorny shrubs from the trail corridor along the Las Colinas Passage. This scenic and hard to access segment of the AZT was suffering from overgrowth of catclaw acacia — the scourge of trail users in southern Arizona.

Water Source Improvements

A natural seep at Passage 15 south of the Gila River near Ripsey Wash which had been abandoned by the rancher has been improved to allow for year round water for all trail users and wildlife. A rehabilitation of Pigeon Spring along the Four Peaks Passage has begun and will be completed in 2023. Development of a remote rainwater collector at Freeman Road Trailhead has been in the works and will be installed Spring 2023.

Picketpost Trailhead Ramadas

An important trailhead improvement project was made possible by a generous donation of time and labor by the Sun City Hikers. ATA volunteers helped this passionate group erect two steel shade ramadas which had been repurposed from Roosevelt Campground on the Tonto National Forest.



Highline restoration



Sunflower Reroute

This project to remove the trail from roads, out of washes, and away from steep, unsustainable, fall-line segments of Passage 21 and 22 was completed this year. It includes 1.75 miles south and 3.5 miles north of Highway 87. At 5.25 miles total, this non-wilderness reroute provides a truly scenic experience from end to end, for all Arizona Trail users.

Highline Improvements

In support of the Highline Restoration Initiative, a large multi-partner project to upgrade the entire Highline Trail to modern sustainability standards, the ATA contributed hundreds of volunteer hours designing and clearing corridor ahead of machine contractors, finishing trail during Volunteer Vacations, and sponsoring Trails Skills Institute classes. Collectively, we completed 6.8 miles of trail improvements between Bray Creek and Washington Park.

Walnut Canyon Reroute

Designed and constructed with sustainability in mind, and to maximize scenic resources and improve the user experience, the 3.6-mile Walnut Canyon Reroute Project was opened this year. This project was a collaboration between Flagline Trails, conservation corps, volunteers, and the Coconino National Forest. Working between fire closures, summer monsoons, and the inevitable mud season which follows, we got it done in one season. Unsustainable portions of the old trail were decommissioned and will be naturalized in 2023.

Deadfall Removal at North Rim

In collaboration with the Grand Canyon National Park's Trail Crew, ATA volunteer sawyers removed more than 100 downed trees from trails within the park. They braved rain, sleet and hail to log out more than 70 trees that had fallen across the Arizona Trail. Then they used an extra day to remove another 30 trees from another trail on the Kaibab Plateau.

North Kaibab Reroutes

The ATA worked closely with the the Kaibab National Forest to design and build the 1.5-mile Orderville Reroute to replace dirt roads with singletrack. Additionally, Flagline Trails and ATA volunteers completed a reroute to remove the trail from its suboptimal location within Orderville Canyon after massive flooding buried the trail in debris as a result of the Mangum Fire of 2020.

Navigational Signs

Volunteers once again stepped up to improve navigation on the AZT. They removed more than 85 fiberglass posts that were originally installed as confidence markers when the trail was less traveled. We replaced these with a total of 44 steel emblem signs which include "No Moto" placards, at road crossings and other important trail junctions.



Mangum Reroute



Wilderness stewardship



Temporal Gulch Reroute construction



Steel sign construction



Passage 16 switchback repair



Steel gate improvement



Picketpost ramada installation

BURNED AREAS REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Telegraph Fire damage

Wildfires have consistently impacted the Arizona Trail over the past four years, with post-fire flooding events obliterating the trail tread, washing out access roads, and sometimes causing damage to entire gateway communities. The ATA has prioritized trail maintenance and reconstruction within burned areas to reopen closed segments of trail, improve safety, and help the landscape recover as quickly as possible. With funding from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and the US Forest Service, here are some of the burned area rehabilitation projects we undertook in 2022:

Bighorn Fire

One of the largest burns in recent history in southern Arizona, the Bighorn Fire impacted many popular trails in the Santa Catalina Mountains outside Tucson. In 2022, ATA staff, volunteers and conservation corps worked to clear drainages, remove deadfall, rebuild stone structures and replace signs along Passages 11, 12, and the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bypass. It has been an all-hands-on-deck effort between the Coronado National Forest, partner organizations, and individuals who love this mountain range.

Telegraph Fire

The Telegraph Fire burned the high desert landscape along 14 miles of the AZT south of Picketpost Trailhead, but the most significant impacts occurred with the arrival of summer monsoon storms. Heavy rainfall caused flooding across unstable hillsides, obliterating some segments of trail; washing rocks and debris down onto the trail; downcutting along many of the arroyos; and gouging water channels down other segments of trail. Volunteers and trail crew professionals from American Conservation Experience spent a total of 10 weeks repairing the AZT on the Tonto National Forest with amazing results.

Woodbury Fire

Deep within the Superstition Mountains are some of the most remote and rugged miles of the entire AZT. After the Woodbury Fire burned 123,875 acres and 31 miles of the AZT in 2019, trail conditions have only become more formidable. Difficult access and lack of reliable water sources have made it very challenging for trail stewards to address priority needs in this area, but through the hard work of volunteers participating in a weeklong Volunteer Vacation with equestrian pack support, and two weeks of dedicated conservation corps members, eight miles of trail were restored. While there is still more work to do, most of the major hazards and navigational issues have been addressed.

Bush Fire

Impacts from the Bush Fire continue to plague the AZT within the Four Peaks and Mazatzal Wilderness areas on the Tonto National Forest. Steep, unstable slopes have caused tons of rock and debris to obscure the trail. In 2022, conservation corps members spent 12 weeks removing rocks, stabilizing hillsides, repairing tread, cutting out downed trees, and opening the AZT for hikers to enjoy once

again. Since the wildfire impacted 32 miles of trail, this will be a long-term effort to ensure the AZT remains passable.

Mangum Fire

A 7-mile segment of trail had been closed since 2020 after the Mangum Fire incinerated the ponderosa pine forest northeast of Jacob Lake. Since the AZT was located within a canyon bottom that quickly filled with downed trees and other debris, the ATA partnered with Flagline Trails and the North Kaibab Ranger District to design and build a new 3-mile segment. Sometimes fires and floods demonstrate where trails shouldn't be, and we used an unfortunate incident to rebuild the AZT in a safer and more sustainable location.

Pine Hollow Fire

Six miles of the AZT was burned in the Pine Hollow Fire of 2020 south of the northern terminus at the Stateline Trailhead. Subsequent flooding caused serious damage to the trail and trailhead, and the ATA and Bureau of Land Management's Arizona Strip Field Office worked together to begin restoring this iconic landscape. The BLM used machinery to improve hillside drainage and reseed the terrain, and ATA staff and stewards made repairs to the trail itself. We look forward to heading back there in 2023 to assess conditions and improve the northernmost miles of the Arizona Trail.



Fresh trail through the Mangum Fire burn scar



Recovering trail after a landslide in the Mazatzal Wilderness

YOUTH PROGRAMS



In Southern Arizona, Seeds of Stewardship had its most incredible year yet. With 15 school partnerships, we served over 500 students. We introduced them to the diverse natural landscapes surrounding their homes and towns, and the Arizona Trail provided them with the path to get lost in the wild heart of this land.

In Northern Arizona this year, we have reached over 330 students across nine schools and 15 classrooms, with four field trips and a stewardship day on the Arizona Trail with each classroom.

We have grown by six new school partnerships involving ten classrooms, with new partnerships prioritizing schools serving indigenous and Spanish-speaking youth.

Eight teachers at five different schools are eager to start new partnerships as our capacity grows next school year.

It has been especially fun experiencing the changing seasons with students. Warm golden fields of wildflowers, drenching monsoon down pours, yellow slopes of whispering aspen, and wet snow whipping between cinder cones have imbued students and educators with a sense of wonder, appreciation, and respect for Arizona's wild landscapes.

With these incredible backdrops, students have connected with the surrounding landscapes, and each other. Trust and community have been built through guiding partners and identifying trees using senses other than sight; working in teams to prepare small fires using only natural materials; sitting back to back and drawing secret objects described by a partner; and practicing words of affirmation and positive feedback while working together.

Students have also begun exploring their broader relationship with the natural world and their responsibilities as the next generation of stewards. We visited burn scars to study fire ecology and human impacts on ponderosa pine forests, performed ecosystem plot studies to better understand the local impacts of climate change, and through hands-on activities visualized challenges we face protecting Arizona's watersheds.

Our outdoor educators have been consistently impressed with how students have engaged deeply with big topics, and brought such creativity, curiosity, and enthusiasm into the work that we do.





Gear Girls kicked off the year by partnering with the Coconino National Forest's Flagstaff Ranger District and cleaned up 35 gallons of litter at a popular snowplay spot off of Highway 180.



REI Flagstaff Bike Shop techs Kate and Emma hosted two amazing hands-on bike clinics for Gear Girls in the spring and fall where girls learned about bike anatomy, how to change tires and tubes, and tips for quick on-the-trail fixes!



Girls remove loose rock and debris from Sandy Seep Trail during the fall stewardship day in partnership with the Coconino National Forest Trail Crew.



Gear Girls participated in the 5th annual AZT in a Day; a large coordinated effort by hundreds across the state to complete the entire 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail in just 24 hours! Passage 34 in the fall can't be beat.



Gear Girls received three donated mountain bikes from Fountain Hills based non-profit, Bob's Free Bikes



Pivot Cycles held an incredible Shop Talk night in Tempe, which raised \$2,210 for the Gear Girls program. Pro riders Kurt Refsnider and Kait Boyle premiered their latest films and discussed their recent bikepacking trip through the Swiss Alps.

The AZT Ambassador Program graduated its third cohort and began training its fourth. The program is an 8-month, 300-hour internship for high school students that offers them several nationally recognized certifications by the AAEE, NAAEE, and ATA. Thanks to our AmeriCorps friends and partners, we've teamed up to offer our interns college scholarships and credits. Now, our graduates are returning to mentor the next generation, completing the whole program twice and securing an important cycle of leadership and education.

"I put my head in the waterfall, and it washed away all my bad thoughts...then I put my rosary in the water, and things didn't feel quite as heavy." - Change Maker High School Student

"Seeds of Stewardship has completely changed my life in the most incredible way possible. I love being able to share my knowledge and love for the Sonoran Desert with others. I think it's incredibly important for us as humans to reconnect ourselves to nature." - Alaska Macon

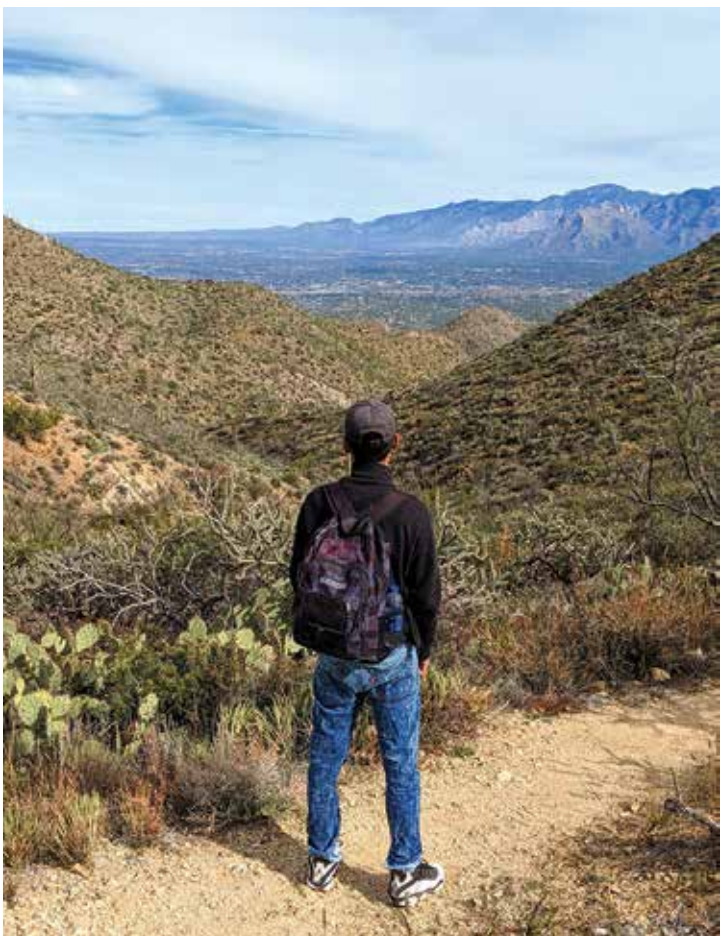
"Seeds of Stewardship has given me more appreciation for the Sonoran Desert, our indigenous friends and neighbors, myself, and everything around me. The program truly is a life-changing experience and all who go through it learn lessons they will keep with them for the rest of their lives." - Alison Soland

Approximately 1000 miles of the AZT were collectively stewarded by Seeds of Stewardship youth by the end of 2022. Our trail work programs teach reciprocity and ecological awareness to students so that as they work the earth, tend to the plants, and move boulders and rocks, they do so with deep care and respect. This process helps ensure our trails are long-lasting and sustainable.

"Through Seeds of Stewardship, our Hiking Club students were provided with caring and knowledgeable trail guides, transportation, and freedom to explore not only the natural world but aspects of themselves that may have otherwise been inaccessible." - Edge High School teacher

Seeds of Stewardship strives to make long-lasting differences. We want our students to feel as though they are a part of nature, not just bystanders. Our work seeks to develop personal connections by letting youth learn, explore, and give back.

"To feel sustained by the land, and to help the land be sustained, is the greatest fulfillment of a hiker and naturalist." - Arizona Trail Ambassador





MONITORING WILDLIFE & RECREATIONAL USE

Over the past five years, the Arizona Trail Association has worked in collaboration with the Phoenix Zoo's Center for Nature Conservation to undertake a study on wildlife and recreational use along the AZT. Using wildlife cameras at over 91 different locations, we've captured 658,549 images! The results of this massive inventory will help us understand which animals are using the trail, and the types and frequency of recreational patterns.

Some questions we have been seeking to answer include:

- How many people are recreating on the different passages of the Arizona Trail?
- Which sections are most heavily used and, which are seldom traveled?
- What variables may help to explain these visitation patterns and seasonal use (weather, access/remoteness, season, trail difficulty, etc)?
- How might we better maintain these sections based on the types of recreation?
- What natural factors influence species occupancy rates across the state (availability or distance to water, elevation/habitat, etc)?
- What anthropogenic factors influence species occupancy (proximity to human infrastructure/roads)?
- Is there a correlation between wildlife site occupancy and human use (seasonally or otherwise)?
- What factors are working to improve human-wildlife co-occurrence?
- How can we improve the Arizona Trail to promote recreational use and wildlife conservation?

We installed cameras at each study site, which were placed at a distance of one-mile apart from one another as the landscape allowed, forming a close transect line along the trail, at both the start and end of a passage. The passages were selected based on accessibility, as well as representation of the diversity of the Arizona Trail.

Cameras were programmed to take three photos when motion triggered. These were placed approximately 1/2-meter above the ground and along the trail, near animal trails leading to the trail, and in areas that were consistent with maximizing opportunities for wildlife and increasing detection probabilities. This includes placement within riparian and montane areas known to be corridors for wildlife movement.

Through analysis of the data, we will assess temporal activity patterns of the five primary types of recreation (hiking/running, thru-hiking, mountain biking, thru-biking, and equestrian activities), as well as identifying the presence and absence of species.

With the help of volunteers, we have been able to sort and categorize a staggering inventory of photographs. The remaining photos are being sorted and analyzed, and we look forward to sharing results with you in 2023. Our hope is that the data gleaned from this multi-year effort across the entire trail will help inform wildlife biologists and recreation program managers on how to best care for the resource for the benefit of animals and humans alike.





2023 PRIORITIES

While we will undertake numerous projects to protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the natural environment, here are some of our big priorities for the year ahead:

1. Install a second AZT Rainwater Collector along an arid segment of the AZT
2. Finish the 32-mile Temporal Gulch Reroute Project on the Coronado National Forest
3. Expand the Gear Girls program to Southern Arizona
4. Secure \$250,000 from the State of Arizona for trail maintenance
5. Study feasibility of 7 new reroute projects to replace roads with singletrack and present to land managers for environmental review
6. Support the USFS to release the draft Comprehensive Plan for the Arizona National Scenic Trail
7. Maintain at least 250 miles to National Scenic Trail standards
8. Develop and install at least 5 more gateway community kiosks
9. Provide more paid trail work opportunities for youth and veterans
10. Offer 10 professional level in-person training sessions to AZT Stewards and Volunteers through the Trail Skills Institute
11. Reach 1400 Views on Video Trail Skills Institute
12. Support 60 weekend or weekday volunteer events throughout the state
13. Document 21,000 or more volunteer hours!
14. Secure funding for and develop a dedicated AZT Trail Maintenance Crew
15. Development of a sustainable alternative to Oracle Ridge to remove the trail from roads, away from mining activities, and improve access from Summerhaven
16. Expand outreach and communication efforts between ATA and our trail angel community



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

LEGACY PARTNERS



BRISTLECONE PINE

Classic Hotels and Resorts
Keep Nature Wild
Osprey
Pin Drop Travel Trailers
South 32
Spirit World 100
Verco Decking
Zpacks

PONDEROSA PINE PARTNERS

Adventure Southwest
American Conservation Experience
Arizona G & T Cooperatives
Canyon Ranch
Cirrus Visual Communications
Cosmic Cycles
County Line Riders of Catalina
Creedbilt
Damion Alexander Team
Desperados Trail Scouts
Flagline Trails
Fox Factory
Grand Canyon Adventures
JuneShine
Town of Payson
PBD Ultralight
Peace Surplus
Pivot Cycles
Realty Executives of Flagstaff-Gary Nelson Group
RodoWrites
Saddlebrooke Hiking Club
Southern Arizona Mountain Bike Association
Southwest Solutions AZ
THAT Brewery
TransCanyon Shuttle
The Willow River Wilderness School

JUNIPER PARTNERS

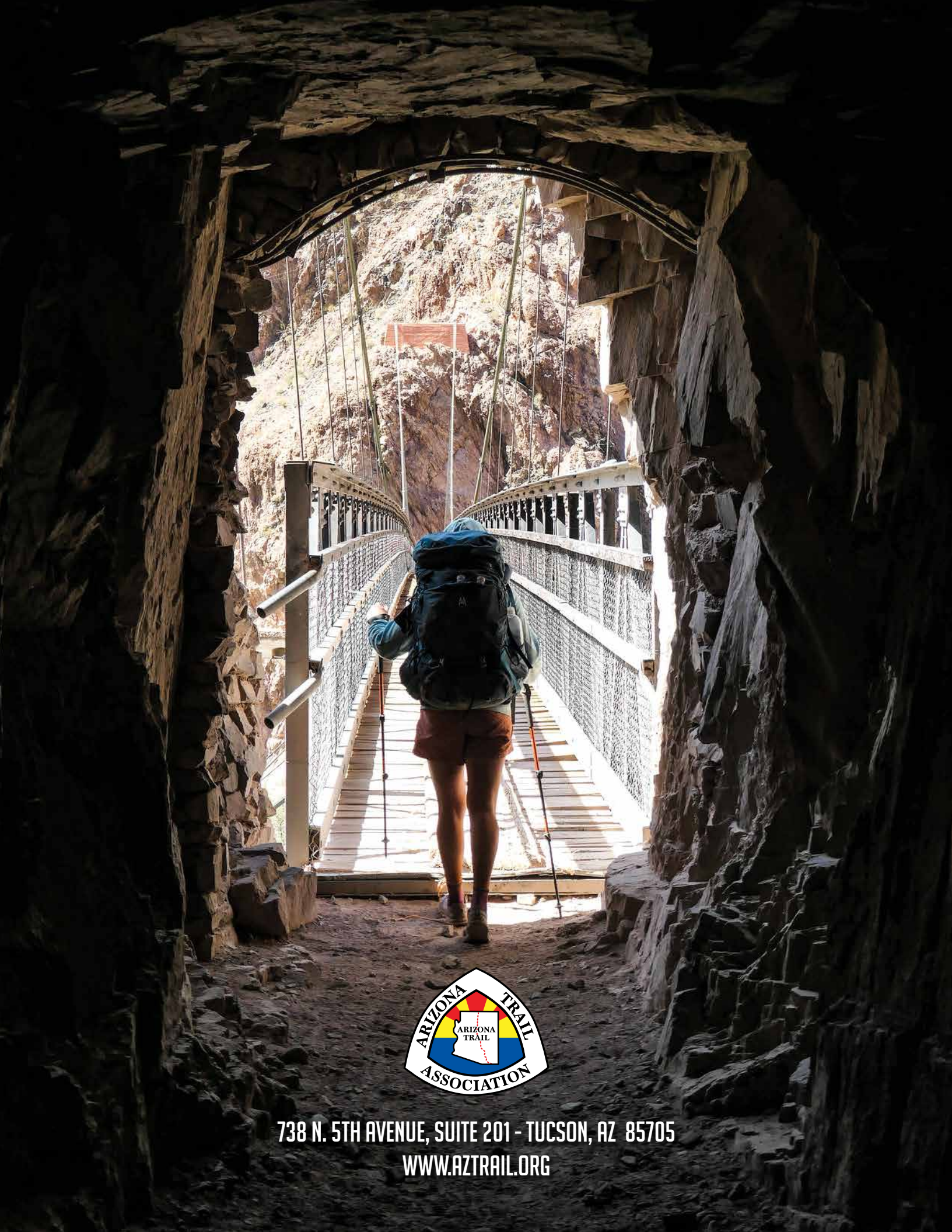
A Ferraris Law
All-Star Grand Canyon Tours
Arizona Conservation Corps
Arizona Jerky Co.
Arizona Zipline Adventures
Babbitt Brothers Foundation
Bawker Bawker Craft Cider
Best Western Plus Sun Canyon- Sierra Vista
Bikepacking Roots
Binary Bicycles
Catalina Craft Pizza

Charron Vineyard and Winery
ExtremeTerrain
Family Vision Source
Flagstaff Surgical Associates
Fleet Feet – Tucson
General Kearny Inn
Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce
Huppy Bar, LLC
Jim Click Automotive Team
Jordan, Hiser & Joy, PLC
Just Roughin' It Adventure Company
KGB Communications
Mormon Lake Lodge
Mt. Lemmon General Store & Gift Shop
New Frontier Books
Patagonia Lumber Co.
Pine-Strawberry Business Community
Pink Jeep Tours
Pizzicletta
Plants for the Southwest
Public Lands Interpretative Association
Rancho Pinot
Sabino Cycles
Simple Outdoor Solutions
Sportsman's Warehouse
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative
Sunnyside Medicenter
Sunset West Building Services
Town of Payson
Wanderlust Running

SAGUARO PARTNERS

32 Shea
57hours
Absolute Bikes
AC Hotel
American Hiking Society
Arizona Backcountry Llamas
Arizona Cowgirls
Arizona Forward
AstroDonkey
Atlas Guides
Beeline Guest House
Beyond Bread
Broadway Bicycles
Catalina Brewing Company
Copper Mountain Motel
DANPHOTO
Double Staple Ranch

Duck and Decanter
El Rancho Robles
Emmitt Barks Cartography
Enriched Solar
Epic Rides
Equilibrium Real Estate Investments
Global Bikes (Ahwatukee, Chandler N, Chandler S, Gilbert)
Grand Canyon Guru
Green Valley Recreation Hiking Club
Hammel Dentistry
Hancock Resources
Joey Gutos Music
Lamber Goodnow
Kuumba Made
Lovecraft
M & B Sedan
Mt. Lemmon General Store & Gift Shop
Mt. Lemmon Gravel Grinder
Mt. Lemmon Hotel
North Rim Country Store
Old Time Pizza – Kearny
Opus Funding & Investments
Oracle Patio Café
Ovens of Patagonia
Page Springs Cellars
Perch Brewery
Pima Trails Association
Reevis Mountain School
Rim Runners
Rogue Panda Designs
Sandy Welshinger Cruise Planners
Sasquatch Fuel
Sky Island Roasters
Southern Arizona Hiking Club
Southwest Trail Solutions
Stage Stop Inn
Sun & Spokes Bicycle Shop
Sundog Running
SunUp Brewing Company
Superior Barmacy
Tap & Bottle
TerraSol Camping
Territory Supply
Top of the World
Western Spirit Cycling
Wildland Trekking Company
Yellow Brick Coffee
WayZada
Zach MacDonald – Tierra Antigua Realty



738 N. 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 201 - TUCSON, AZ 85705
WWW.AZTRAIL.ORG