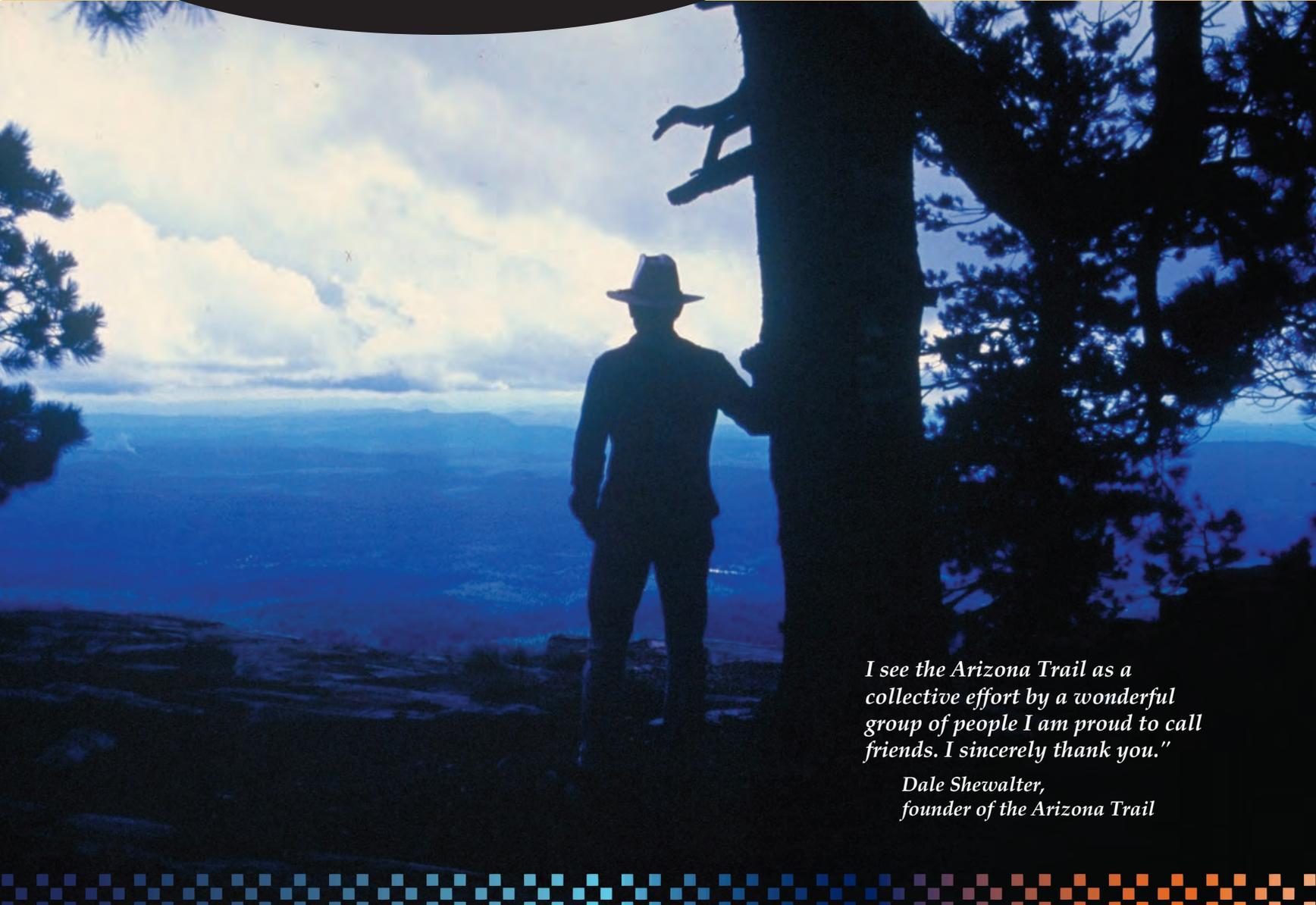




Arizona Trail
ASSOCIATION



I see the Arizona Trail as a collective effort by a wonderful group of people I am proud to call friends. I sincerely thank you."

*Dale Shewalter,
founder of the Arizona Trail*

CELEBRATING THE ARIZONA TRAIL:
A DREAM COME TRUE

// SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER //

President's Column

On February 4, 2012, we will be celebrating the completion of the Arizona Trail. What does "completion" mean? It means that Dale Shewalter's vision of a continuous path from Mexico to Utah will now be a reality.

Many, many people were instrumental in the completion of the trail, but I want to mention just two—Larry Snead, ATA Director for many years, and Dave Hicks, our Director for the last six years. Dave has announced his intention to retire at the end of the year.

Few people know how much work it takes to run a membership organization, negotiate with land managers and construction crews, find and support volunteers, raise money, talk to community groups about the trail, support the Board, fill out reports to grant makers, and so on and so on. It's a heck of a lot of work. There is no way we would be celebrating this February without Larry and Dave.

But celebrate we are. Join us on February 4 for a day of fun, food, interesting presentations and lots of smiles for a job well done. We are calling the event "Celebrating the Arizona Trail—a Dream Come True." See you there.

Emily Nottingham
President, Arizona Trail Association

Arizona National Scenic Trail Agency Partners

Arizona Office of Tourism

Arizona State Land
Department

Arizona State Parks
Oracle State Park

Bureau of Land Management

Colossal Cave Mountain Park

City of Flagstaff

National Parks

Coronado National Memorial
Grand Canyon National Park
Saguaro National Park
Walnut Canyon National
Monument

U.S. Forest Service

Coconino National Forest
Coronado National Forest
Kaibab National Forest
Tonto National Forest

Pima County

Pinal County



A handful of a horned toad



Photo: David Baker



Photo: Eric Smith Collection

The 1995 ride "posse" that helped scout a route from Oracle to the Gila River
On the cover: Dale Shewalter on the Mogollon Rim

The Arizona Trail

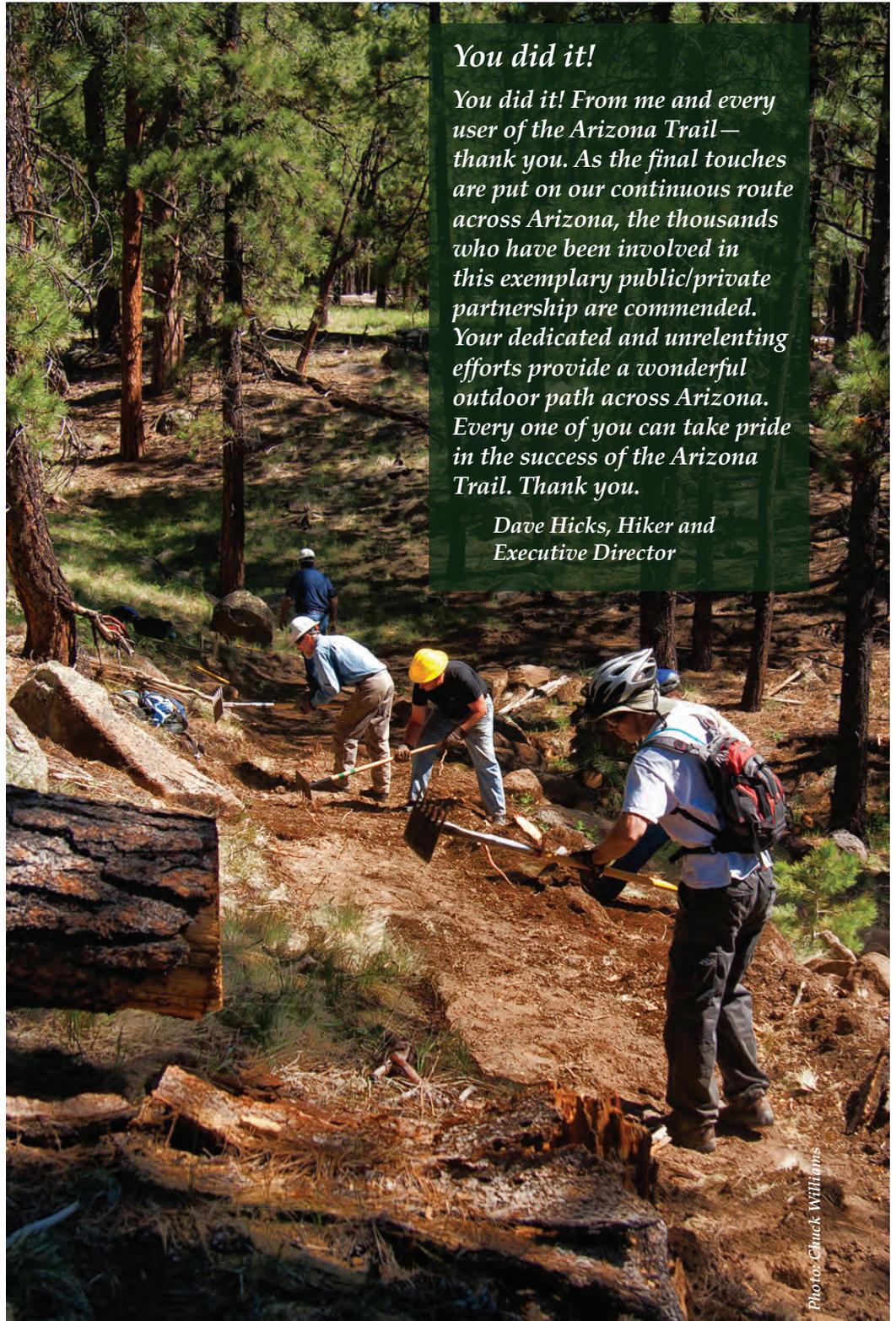
The Arizona Trail is a continuous, 800+ mile, diverse and scenic trail across Arizona from Mexico to Utah. It links deserts, mountains, canyons, communities and people. The trail is complete after twenty-six years of dedicated effort.

The Arizona Trail Association's mission is to build, maintain, promote, protect and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land.

The Arizona Trail was designated a National Scenic Trail by Congress and the President in 2009.



Dale, second from right, shares his passion with, from left, Eric Smith, Steve Saway, Cynthia Lovely, and Coronado National Memorial Superintendent Ed Lopez in 1998.



You did it!

You did it! From me and every user of the Arizona Trail—thank you. As the final touches are put on our continuous route across Arizona, the thousands who have been involved in this exemplary public/private partnership are commended. Your dedicated and unrelenting efforts provide a wonderful outdoor path across Arizona. Every one of you can take pride in the success of the Arizona Trail. Thank you.

Dave Hicks, Hiker and Executive Director

"Close the Gap" event crews completed an important section near the San Francisco Peaks in fall 2011.

Many thanks to all the photographers who contributed to this special edition newsletter. Every attempt to credit you was made, and if we missed you, let us know. We'll be sure to thank you in a future edition.



The Arizona Trail was a dream conceived in hope, constructed in love and toil and will remain forever a gift to all who choose to taste its wonders.

Bonnie Slaten,
Segment Steward

Twenty years ago, I'd never heard of the Arizona Trail. Among those attending a start-up planning meeting for the Arizona Trail Association was Dean Prichard, an Oracle rancher I admired, who leaned over to me and quietly said, "You'll want to be involved in this." And the rest is history.

Jan Hancock, ATA
Founding Member

I'm glad all the segments are finally finished, but the alternate routes I took, even when they weren't necessary—read "lost"—allowed me to see still more of this magnificent state.

Mike Hayes, Hiker

While Dale's and others' footsteps have faded, generations to come will never forget the path they chose. The Arizona Trail is a legacy to all.

Dick Wertz, Segment Steward

I view the Arizona Trail as a living, breathing entity ever evolving. Ultimately, the Arizona Trail allows each group, whether hiker, bicyclist, or equestrian, a place to enjoy their chosen interest. What a legacy to leave for future generations.

Lynn Maring, Segment Steward



Arizona Daily Star, 1989

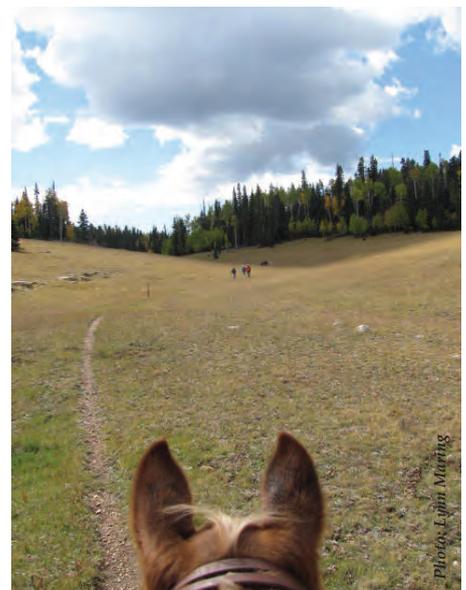


Photo: Lynn Maring

Dale's dream came true.

Beverly Chambers, Segment Steward

It's a tremendous moment of celebration to see one man's vision become reality.

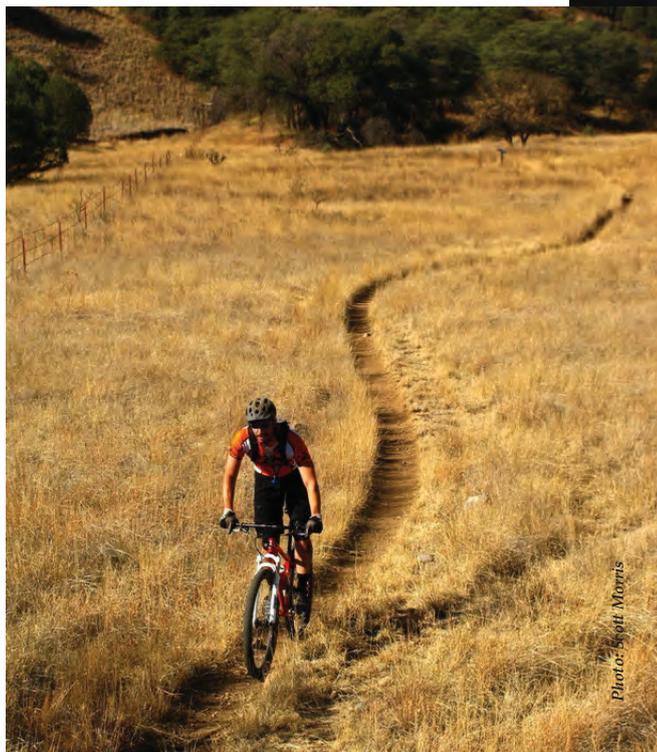
*Brian Poturalski,
Flagstaff Ranger District*

The Arizona Trail is an exceedingly special route that takes you through Arizona's most incredible scenic landscapes. Here's to the Arizona Trail, and to Dale Shewalter, the father of the Arizona Trail.

Steve Anderson, Board Member

Experience all the seasons Arizona has to offer, from warm summer nights under millions of stars to fresh new mornings waking to birds singing. Hike the Arizona Trail and expand your world!

Maureen Nowland, Hiker



One hundred years from now when Arizona is celebrating its bicentennial, the magnitude of the passion and effort that volunteers and agencies put into the development of the trail will not be apparent to the users. They will only be glad it happened.

Annie McVay, ASU School of Community Resources and Development

During my hike, I learned more about the beauty and diversity of the state than I could have imagined. We would return to camp, enjoy a nice dinner, have quality time around a campfire and then retire to our spacious tent. The next day, it was on to another section of trail. It was a wonderful adventure which I would recommend to anyone.

Mike Headrick, Hiker



Photo: Amy Garza



There is nothing more satisfying than coming back to an area of the trail that you helped build and pointing it out to your friends. The amount of pride you have in arranging that little tiny section of earth into a walkable, rideable trail is unbelievable.

Tasha Nelson, Board Member



Photo: Steven Dufault

Dick and I happened to be at the meeting of the then Arizona Hiking and Equestrian Trails Committee in the mid-1980s when Dale presented his idea of a north-south trail across Arizona.

I feel pride in having helped work on the trail. And it causes me to think of the other people, friends, that had been at the meeting then, too.

Thank you, Dale.

Diane Wertz, Segment Steward

Building trail gives a person a sense of awe knowing that there have been hundreds of thousands of hours spent building the Arizona Trail.

I second what most everyone says who has hiked the trail. The beauty is beyond belief.

Lee Allen, Segment Steward



Photo: David Baker

When I walk/hike on segments of the Arizona Trail, I can feel the passion and energy of people who have made this a reality in such a relatively short time. Without that passion, this trail would still be just a dream.

Cate Bradley, Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program

Trail time forges friendships and creates tales with every picture taken. Oh, the fun I have had sharing my Arizona Trail stories! Thanks to all who have worked hard to make this trail a reality.

Leigh Anne Thrasher and Jasmine the donkey

"There's only 265 miles completed. Are you sure you wouldn't rather wait a few years?" That was my response in 1993 to authors Dan Smith and Karen Berger, who were calling from New York, determined to hike the nascent Arizona Trail. Yet they did, and their journey was successful. They said they'd be back one day to do it all over again...I think they'd be proud of what we have accomplished.

Eric Smith, Board Member

Great beauty, challenges, thoughtful routing, diversity, rigor, and through an incomparable state.

David Michaels, Segment Steward

As we look forward to the completion of the trail, I realize that no matter how hard I try, the Arizona Trail will always provide me more than I could ever hope to give back.

Kent Taylor, Board Member

One of my most memorable experiences was meeting with Arizona's congressional representatives. Congressman Bob Stump agreed to meet with me personally. He knew more about the early days of the Arizona Trail than I did! I treasure the experience.

*Larry Snead,
former Executive Director*



Photo: Sirena Dufault

CELEBRATING
THE
ARIZONA TRAIL—
A DREAM
COME TRUE

February 4, 2012
9 a.m.

PERA Club
Tempe, Arizona

\$20 per person
RSVP by January 23, 2012 at
aztrail.org

Celebrate 25 years of determined effort to complete Dale's dream of a continuous path from Mexico to Utah.

This luncheon and festival will feature presentations, interactive sessions, exhibits, and more.



Photo: Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists

The Arizona Trail is indeed a precious and rare resource that few other states share.

*Scott Summers, former
ATA Board President*

Trekking the Arizona Trail in the days before it was fully constructed was one of the greatest challenges of my life and one of my most significant achievements.

Brad Buckhout, Hiker

Go for it.

Margaret Bohannon's (chair of the Arizona Hiking and Equestrian Trails Committee) direction to Dale Shewalter after his 1986 presentation to the committee about a continuous trail across Arizona.

CELEBRATING THE ARIZONA TRAIL: A DREAM COME TRUE

If you're a member, remember to renew when your notice comes, and if you're not yet a member, become one.

Each membership supports our trail in many ways, from showing the sheer number of trail enthusiasts to helping pay the expenses that go along with a trail like ours.

We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your dollars are tax deductible. Your generous donations from \$1 to \$20,000 are gratefully acknowledged.

You can find maps, access point information, membership and upcoming event details on our website: www.aztrail.org.
The Arizona Trail—open for you 365 days a year.

ARIZONA TRAIL BUSINESS AND CLUB MEMBERS

American Express Charitable Fund
Arizona Community Foundation
Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation
Arizona Office of Tourism
Arizona Public Service
ASARCO
Aspen Sports
AZ Partsmaster
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Jorden, Bischoff & Hiser, PLC

Mormon Lake Lodge
National Bank of Arizona
Pima County ECAP – United Way
Pima Trails Association
Reevis Mountain School
Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI)
REI Employee Charitable Action
Resolution Copper
Rosemont Copper
Saddlebrooke Hiking Club
Sanofi-Aventis
Saguaro Horsemen Association
Salt River Project (SRP)
Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists
Southwest Conservation Corps
State Employees
Charitable Campaign
Summit Hut
Sunnyside Medicenter – Mrs. & Dr.
Dennis Thrasher
Tony Norris – Musician
Tucson Saddle Club
Wells Fargo Bank

Our sincerest appreciation goes to everyone involved in this adventure of a lifetime. Thank you for your support, hard work, sweat and tears, love and faith in seeing this trail to completion. We have created an amazing conduit that will give generations of people the opportunity to experience Arizona and the beauty of our natural world through a life-changing experience.

*In honor of Dale,
Madeleine and Zane Shewalter*

ARIZONA TRAIL GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

Sierra Vista	Roosevelt
Patagonia	Tonto Basin
Sonoita	Payson
Vail	Pine/Strawberry
Tucson	Mormon Lake
Summerhaven	Village
Oracle	Flagstaff
San Manuel	Tusayan
Mammoth	Page
Dudleyville	Grand Canyon
Winkelman	Village
Hayden	North Rim
Kearny	Jacob Lake
Kelvin/Riverside	Fredonia
Superior	Kanab, Utah
Miami/Globe	



**For more information,
visit aztrail.org**

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Special thanks for its
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