

Trail Operations Report

October, 2018

Butterfly Trail Restoration – Completed 1.5 miles of trail rehabilitation along the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bypass Passage. Volunteer projects scheduled for this weekend and November 17 to close out the Summit Hut & Mountain Hardwear Grant.

Washington Park/Colonel Devin Trail, Highline Passage 26f. Grant is officially closed out with State Parks. Volunteers installed the new TH sign. Still waiting for the third kiosk panel. Official completion ceremony to be announced soon.

Happy Jack Singletrack – Wendy and Zach hosted a very productive Volunteer Vacation, topped off with the delayed kick-off weekend with ~50 attendees. The Bargaman Park segment is open, adding 3.5 miles of beautiful new singletrack. Local steward is hosting a polishing event Oct 20. This completes 5 miles of new trail...only 13 to go!

North Rim Projects -- Volunteers removed the old and built new log fences at Orderville and East Rim View trailheads August 23-27. Zach oversaw AZCC Youth Corps six weeks of work on the AZT in GCNP and North Kaibab. Crews maintained 11 miles of trail tread and narrowed some parts of the utility easement to singletrack where practicable. They also maintained 8 miles AZT on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

Rim Country Sustainable Recreation Trails Initiative – Next meeting is Nov. 7. We expect to at least begin identifying specific projects that the FS will support.

Passage 2-3, Canelo Hills East & West – USFS has made the determination that consultation with USFWS is not necessary to approve the trail construction project to remove the AZT from dirt roads and arroyos. A Decision Memo is expected in November, so conservation corps and volunteers can begin construction. There is \$29,500 available to AZCC for this project. Approval of machine construction has not yet been determined.

Passage 4, Temporal Canyon – Temporal Canyon Rd. will be closed north of Patagonia during mine reclamation work between October 2018 and May 2019. Zach and Lee Blackwell, working with CNF Staff, have explored and proposed an alternate route nearby.

Passage 5, Santa Rita Mountains – Coronado Disaster Relief Funding approved for 3.5 weeks of AZCC Youth Corps work beginning January 2019 to help repair the impacts of the Sawmill Fire.

Passage 7, Las Cienegas – 2 rollover gates installed at I-10 south of Gabe Zimmerman and at Hwy 83, north of Sahuarita Rd.

Passage 10, 11, and 11a, Santa Catalina RD – Zach is overseeing 6 weeks of AZCC Youth Corps work to Rehab from Burro Fire of 2017 at Green Mountain Trail and Redington Pass south of Bellota Ranch Rd.

Passage 13, Oracle – Per our agreement, ADOT will clean out the culvert under Hwy 77 in November. It is currently full of sand with less than 5 feet of clearance.

Passage 15, Tortilla Mountains – Archaeological studies have been completed to build 5.3 miles of trail to remove the AZT from gasline and powerline roads on BLM and Arizona State Trust Land. ASLD Committee denied the application for new trail on State Land, but both the ATA and Pinal County are communicating with the State Land Commissioner to not follow the committee's recommendation and to approve the project. This project is on hold until the State Land issue is resolved and the BLM completes the NEPA for trail on BLM land.

Passage 17, Alamo Canyon – Volunteers repaired the trail at the wash immediately south of Picketpost TH. Summer floods created a 3 foot drop in the trail. They also installed a gate on the new LOST alignment. A major summertime storm event caused significant damage to trails in this area.

Passage 19, Superstition Mountains – USFS (Pablo) funded three youth crews to work the “Big Dip” below Two-Bar Mountain. This section drops and climbs one thousand feet over 1.8 miles and generates frequent comment from hiker and equestrians. FS and ATA funded pack support because Walnut Spring proved insufficient for the crews.

Passage 23, Mazatzal Divide – Overseen by volunteer extraordinaire Roger Smith, the ancestral lands youth crews completed the Hopi and Chilson Spring restoration projects, as well as critical trail improvement work. Roger deserves special recognition for handling this, which included many trips up the mountain, often in the rain, to ensure the work was completed appropriately.

Passage 27, Happy Jack – FS is still working on the financial agreements necessary to spend the RTP grant funds. When that happens we will be able to schedule youth crews and machine work on the new trail sections. Volunteers will be installing signs and markers on day trips.

Passage 34, San Francisco Peaks – We reported, and recommended a course of action to repair, an instance of ATV traffic on the AZT which has obliterated a half-mile of the trail south of Kelly Tank. USFS (Sean Murphy) recommends installation of boulders to restrict travel on this segment of trail, and they will take responsibility for that later this year...unless winter hits and then it will wait until Spring of 2019.

Passage 35, Babbitt Ranch – Babbitt Ranches has approved the MOU between Coconino County and the ATA to initiate construction of approximately 11 miles of singletrack between Tub Ranch (north of Cedar Ranch Trailhead) and the Kaibab National Forest Boundary. Once agreement is signed by all three parties, trail construction can begin. A combination of machine work and conservation corps are planned, and Coconino County has committed \$30,000 to AZCC to help.