

Executive Director Report – July 20, 2019

Below are highlights of programs, activities, initiatives, promotions and partnerships since the last board meeting (March 2019).

Administration

Insurance – Work Comp audits for 2017 and 2018 are complete, with the ATA owing an additional \$5,000 for Work Comp coverage. We are working with our agent to secure coverage from a different provider that is more affordable and professional. AmTrust has been a tremendous detriment.

Taxes – tax organizer for 2018 is complete and in the hands of our CPA. A compiled financial statement will be produced by Julie Klewer later this year.

NICRA – an updated Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement is required by the US Forest Service. Matt and Julie Klewer will prepare and present to USFS Region 3 Office before the end of September.

Bookkeeper – the contract with the ATA's third-party independent bookkeeper will be cancelled in August. Her duties will be assumed by Debbie Thorman (payroll) and our CPA (monthly financial statements).

Fundraising

Arizona Trail State Fund - \$250,000

After months of outreach to members of the State Legislature and working with Government Affairs Specialist Lyn White, the Arizona Trail Fund received an appropriation of \$250,000. None of this money flows through the ATA; instead the ATA directs Arizona State Parks & Trails where to spend the funds on conservation corps. A project priority list will be reviewed by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee at their September meeting, and the goal is to spend the entirety of the fund by May of 2020. This will be followed up with a thorough report and request for future appropriation. We have the full support of the new Arizona State Parks & Trails Director (unlike the former director) and the majority of members of the State House and Senate.

Hudbay (Rosemont Copper) Funding - \$302,578

In April, the ATA received 45% of the agreed-upon contribution of \$672,396 to support Arizona Trail construction, trailhead development, signs, gates, fences, water source development, project manager salary, and other project expenses associated with Rosemont Copper Mine mitigation.

Toyota Tacoma Donation - \$36,000 value

The Valley Toyota Dealers approved a donation request for a 2019 Toyota Tacoma. This is the same cooperative of 10 Phoenix-area Toyota dealers that donated the Four Runner in 2012. Once the vehicle receives its vinyl wrap, we will do a major media and member announcement to thank the Valley Toyota Dealers for their generosity.

REI Co-op - \$26,000

In July, the ATA received a Stewardship Grant from REI to support four priority projects. REI continues to be an incredible supporter of the ATA!

Heritage Fund/Arizona Game & Fish Department - \$20,000

Our request for \$50,000 to support construction of the Sahuarita Road Trailhead was approved for \$20,000. We have three years to utilize the funding, otherwise it must be returned. Pima County's pending application to Arizona State Land Department as well as ASLD's willingness to sell the land are both determining factors for this project's success.

Arizona State Parks & Trails Safety & Environmental Education Grant - \$9,345
Reporting is complete for the ASP&T SEE Grant that supported four Trail Skills Institute classes in 2018-2019. Reimbursement is forthcoming.

South32 - \$5,000

South32 recently contributed \$5,000 to support a portion of NEPA studies for the Temporal Gulch Re-route Project on the Coronado National Forest.

Programs & Initiatives

Arizona Trail Passport – Modeled after the passport and stamps collected along the Camino de Santiago, the ATA will announce a passport program later this year. Stamps will be available at key locations within gateway communities. This is intended to be a business builder as well as a way to keep gateway communities engaged with the AZT and the ATA.

AZT Mug – The third mug in the AZT commemorative mug series is now available, and will be offered to members joining/renewing at the Ironwood (\$100) level or higher.

Trailblazing 25 Events – In celebration of our 25th anniversary we have helped to organize 25 independent fiestas throughout the state. These will generate some revenue through raffle ticket and food/beverage sales, strengthen relationships with business partners, and get the Arizona Trail community excited about the ATA and our upcoming initiatives.

Arizona Trail Day – Flagstaff – Please plan on attending and volunteering for our largest public event of the year on Saturday, September 14 when we celebrate Arizona Trail Day at Buffalo Park from 10 am – 2 pm. We will be missing some key staff and volunteer leaders at this time, so your help is needed!

Arizona Trail in a Day – online registration is open for the big AZT in a DAY event on Saturday, October 12. The goal is to collectively cover all 800 miles in a single day, and raise \$50,000.

Printed Materials

Grand Canyon Visitor Map – the new Visitor Map for Grand Canyon National Park includes the Arizona National Scenic Trail! We have been asking for this for at least the last seven years (probably longer). This map goes into the hands of over 5 million visitors annually.

Arizona Trail Junior Explorer Handbooks – the Bureau of Land Management has agreed to print 5,000 more handbooks. These are expected to arrive at the ATA office this summer, and will promptly be delivered to schools and visitor centers statewide.

Arizona Trail Maps – the Arizona Office of Tourism has agreed to print 10,000 new Arizona Trail maps and assist with distribution statewide. Detailed map with trailheads and gateway communities will be featured on one side, and itineraries and more information about the Arizona Trail on the other side.

Proposed Legislation

Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act – Rep. Grijalva (AZ) introduced legislation to protect 1 million acres surrounding Grand Canyon from uranium mining. See attached brief.

Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act – Sen. Lee (UT) introduced legislation to allow land managers to decide where to allow mountain bikes within designated Wilderness areas. See attached brief.