

AZNST Administrator's Report

March 2020

The 2020 challenge cost share supplemental agreement (SPA) has been submitted in the amount of \$246,250. Few project requests were received from the forests so additional funds are available for the SPA.

Francisco Valenzuela, long-time Regional Director of Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness, retired January 3. The acting director, detailed in until mid-June, is Toby Bloom. She is the National Program Manager for Tourism, Interpretation and Travel.

At Hike the Hill in Washington DC in February we had some productive internal meetings. We received assurance that the approach we are taking to visitor capacity in the comprehensive plan should be acceptable from the legal standpoint. That is, it should be sufficient to meet the intent of the National Trails System Act. Francisco provided a draft paper just before he retired that outlines the concepts and methodology for this approach. We are working on incorporating it in a way that is consistent with interagency guidelines developed in recent years. The ATA, along with our agency partners, will have the opportunity to engage with us on this approach and provide input.

The Forest Service is rolling out a new initiative associated with the National Strategy for a Sustainable Trails System. It is called the 10-Year Trail Stewardship Challenge and it is geared toward accomplishing action items identified in the earlier strategy. It emphasizes collaboration with other Federal partners, States, communities, Tribes, volunteers, partners and others. More information can be found at <https://fs.fed.us/managing-land/trails/10YTC>.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the ATA, the Federal agencies and Arizona State Parks has been developed and is in the system for 2020. Input on content has been received from the ATA but the Forest Service is still awaiting input from other agencies.

A decision is expected on the Temporal Gulch Passage Reroute this month.