

Network for Arizona Trails

Statewide Zoom Call on Trails and COVID (#11)

Monday, December 14 12 pm to 1 pm

“Revisiting the Network”

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85630264480>

Meeting ID: 856 3026 4480 | Passcode: 490565

Phone option: 669-900-6833 or 253-215-8782

~ Agenda ~

- 12:00pm **Introductions and Orientation to Zoom**
- 12:05pm **Round Robin Updates**
- Land Managers - local, state, federal
 - Network for Arizona Trails Steering Committee
- 12:15pm **Perceptions of Conflict Surrounding E-bikes on the Arizona Trail -**
Matthew Nelson, Arizona Trail Association
- 12:45pm **2021 Summit Planning**
- 1:00pm **Adjourn and after-meeting networking opportunity (15 min)**

Network for AZ Trails Statewide Zoom - Notes December 14, 2020

Round Robin Updates

- Land Managers - local, state, federal
 - USFS
 - Laura retiring Dec 31
 - Trails program manager will be a new R3 position - will be a key position
 - GAOA funding some trails projects for 2022 though don't yet have final approvals
 - Dale - Greater Prescott Trails project 2 is out
 - Adam - SDMB working on Mt Graham; Palisades and Oracle Ridge efforts
 - Brady - trail volunteer events, have had several this year, downsized but those trail crews have been reduced to individuals or 2-3 people; special use permits have been greatly reduced and will continue, allowing events that mirror Coconino County covid guidelines of 50 participants including support
 - BLM
 - Tammy is new access coordinator statewide
 - BLM E-bike rule is out
 - AZ recreational strategy working on now
 - AZ State Parks
 - Use is up
 - OHV program - huge demand on places to ride,
 - Legends of Superior Trails has new signage in Arnett Canyon thanks to Anthem Sun City Hiking Club, USFS & Volunteers.
 - Black Canyon Heritage Park: Due to COVID concerns, the Black Canyon Heritage Park has cancelled its January 30 WinterFest / BookFest. We are going to do a virtual auction - looking of items if you have some to donate. Contact Ann at 6232938628 or info@blackcanyonheritagepark.org.
 - The Sun Corridor Trail planning from Las Vegas to Douglas continues to progress working with Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, Maricopa, Pinal, Pima and Cochise Counties. Working with the RTCA Program the Sun Corridor Trail Alliance has developed bylaws and an application to become a non-profit

organization. We have also received funding from the Arizona Office of Tourism to standup a basic website for the organization.

Perceptions of Conflict Surrounding E-bikes on the Arizona Trail - Matthew Nelson, Arizona Trail Association (link to report - <https://aztrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Perceptions-of-Conflict-Surrounding-Future-E-Bike-Use-on-the-Arizona-Trails-small.pdf>)

- Ebikes could potentially outpace traditional bikes in 10 years
- AZT is a 800 mile non-motorized recreation trail
- With all of the traditional uses in mind, we know that social conflicts will be an important part of the evaluations
- The National Trails act specifically says that motorized recreation is not permitted on the National Scenic Trails.
- DOI was considering approving the use of ebikes as a way to expand the availability of outdoor recreation.
- All existing research was on ebikes in urban contexts.
- Overall results were very strongly aimed at the presence of ebikes as being unfavorable.
- Ebike exposure increases tolerance to some extent, but even with this in mind, the majority of people still find the presence of ebikes unfavorable.
- Primary concern was that ebikes are motorized use on a nonmotorized trail.
- 72% saw overcoming disabilities as a benefit of the use.
- Why would a land manager consider allowing ebikes when it's clear that it would have such a dramatic impact on existing user groups?
- Some respondents talked about existing conflicts between user groups potentially being further aggravated by the emergence of ebikes
- Battery life - we don't have good information on the time available on these systems. This will likely be changing dramatically as technology is changing.
- Only a couple members of the call had any experience using an ebike on trails
- Speed average of these bikes will be dictated by terrain but could likely be sustained a little higher than on non-assisted methods.
- Other National Scenic Trails do not allow any ebikes or even bike use for the most part.

- Tom Thurman thinks it would be very difficult to design trails for the higher speeds that we could see through ebike use.
- Role for the Network for Arizona Trails in the future? In the public input period for when and where ebikes are appropriate
- National Bicycle Dealers Assn. is where Matt got some of his information on the trends.

Laura White - Proposed Forest Service directives specifically prohibits eBikes on national scenic trails except for very limited exceptions authorized by legislation.

Adam Milnor - here's a website of those that advocate for ebike use and access

<https://peopleforbikes.org/our-work/e-bikes/>

Adam - Jan, there's a good discussion in the land manager guide on that website

https://wsd-pfb-sparkinfluence.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2017/11/eMTB_Book_11.7.17_lowrez.pdf

Claire - The majority of research that I've seen on resource damage in relation to ebikes has been completed by the ebike community, so their research has a tendency to minimize it...

2021 Summit Planning

-  Tahnee Robertson, SDR (Host, me) 
-  Matthew Nelson, Arizona Trail Assn (Guest) 
-  Wendy - Arizona Trail Assn. (Co-host, Guest) 
-  Kirk Astroth (Guest)
-  Marcia Nesby, BOR (Guest)
-  Terri Nelson - Yavapai Cnty GIS (Guest)
-  Town of Florence Community Services (Guest) 
-  Adam Milnor - Coron... (Guest) [Ask to Unmute](#) 
-  Angela Tsinnie (Guest) 
-  Ann Hutchinson (Guest) 
-  Beth Keune | AZGFD & Leave No Trace... (Guest) 
-  Brady VanDragt - Coconino National Fo... (Guest) 
-  Brian Poturalski, Coconino NF (Guest) 
-  Claire Miller - City of Phoenix - Natural... (Guest) 
-  Dale Deiter, Prescott NF (Guest) 

Jackie Thomas, AZ State Land Department

Hezekiah Allen, Town of Florence Community Services

-  DB Dean Brennan (Guest) ,
-  E- Elizabeth - equestrian (Guest) ,
-  ES Elizabeth Stewart, Anza trail Foundatio... (Guest) ,
-  GW Geoff Walsh - Bureau of Land Manage... (Guest) ,
-  JS J.C. Sanders, Arizona Peace Trail (Guest) ,
-  JH Jan Hancock - Maricopa Trail + Park Fo... (Guest) ,
-  JS Jeff Schmidt - Arizona State Parks (Guest) ,
-  Jim Schenck-Legends of Superior Trails (Guest) ,
-  JE John Ehlen - Yavapai County GIS (Guest) ,
-  KR Kari Roberg, AZ Tourism (Guest) ,
-  LW Laura White, FS-AZNST (Guest) ,
-  LG Lee Gault-AZCC (Guest) ,
-  LK Liz Krug - Coconino County Parks & Rec (Guest) ,
-  MI Martin Ince | City of Flagstaff (Guest) ,

-  ME Matt Eberhart – Arizona State Parks an... (Guest) ~~/~~
-  MM Matt Mitchell AZT Trail angle (Guest) ~~/~~
-  MR Mickey Rogers, AZ State Parks (Guest) ~~/~~
-  MQ Mike Quigley, TWS (Guest) ~~/~~
-  PM Pam Milavec, VVCC (Guest) ~~/~~
-  PD Paul Dawson_COF_Flagstaff RD (Guest) ~~/~~
-  RC R.J. Cardin Maricopa County Parks (Guest) ~~/~~
-  S(Shandiin (she/her/hers) (Guest) ~~/~~
-  SR Steve Rugh/WTMC (Guest) ~~/~~
-  s sue (Guest) ~~/~~
-  TP Tammy Pike, BLM AZSO (Guest) ~~/~~
-  TT Tom Thurman (Guest) ~~/~~
-  TS Tracy Stephens - Friends of the Verde... (Guest) ~~/~~
-  Vicki Preston - Desert Foothills Land Tr... (Guest) ~~/~~