

TRAIL OPERATIONS REPORT – Summer 2021

Passage 1, Southern Terminus and Huachuca Mountains – The southernmost mile of the AZT remains closed. DHS recently announced cancellation of border wall contracts and return of funds to their originally intended purposes. The ATA has worked with the Southern Border Communities Coalition to develop a list of priority areas for restoration, including the AZT's southern terminus within Coronado National Memorial.

Passage 2, Canelo Hills East – Stewards completed maintenance at the mid-high point in May. The entire passage is clear. Only one tricky fall-line segment remains.

Passages 3-4, Temporal Gulch Reroute Project – Construction on this project will resume in October. Funding has been secured to develop a small trailhead for access at Casa Blanca Canyon Road, as well as \$200K for trail construction. The Train Track Trail, a connector trail to Patagonia, was officially opened on April 24 during Patagonia's "Earth Day" celebration.

Passage 5, Santa Rita Mountains – Signs advocating responsible shooting within the AZT corridor have been approved, produced, and will be installed this summer. This will increase safety of trail users within a poplar target shooting area.

Passage 7, Las Cienegas – A steel navigational sign was installed at the junction of Cienega Creek and the AZT, with approval from Pima County NRPR.

Passage 11C, Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bypass – The Butterfly Trail portion of the Wilderness Bypass has re-opened but was heavily impacted by the Bighorn Fire. Stewards completed recent assessments and plans are underway for multi-day maintenance projects to make repairs.

Passage 12, Oracle Ridge – Two steel gates installed by a fence contractor in a very remote location.

Passage 14, Black Hills – ATA Stewards and volunteers removed fiberglass posts and replaced with 20 steel navigational signs, with funding from Pinal County.

Passage 15, Tortilla Mountains – Pinal County is in the process of ordering another 30-40 steel emblem signs to replace fiberglass posts along the existing passage outside of the proposed reroute at the north end of the route.

Passage 17, Alamo Canyon – Completely burned by the recent Telegraph Fire, which is not fully contained at more than 90,000 acres and growing. Assessment, advocating for funding, and stabilization efforts will commence once it's safe to enter the burn zone between Picketpost Trailhead and just north of the Gila River.

Passages 21, Pine Mountain – Pigeon Spring rehabilitation project moving forward, pending USFS approval. A \$50K maintenance grant approved through state parks for area impacted by Bush Fire within Boulder Canyon.

Passage 22, Saddle Mountain – Working with Yavapai-Apache Tribe on a new trailhead sign at Mormon Grove Trailhead to include indigenous place names and more culturally relevant information.

Passage 25, Whiterock Mesa – Alder Ridge Reroute Project complete!!!

Passage 26, Highline – Approval for Highline improvements and reroutes are expected in August 2021 from the USFS. This will begin a multi-year effort to improving the AZT's Highline Passage.

Passage 27, Blue Ridge – Installed three-panel kiosk at General Springs TH. Scouting work ongoing to remove the AZT from dirt roads, and to find a more sustainable crossing of Clear Creek.

Passages 30, Anderson Mesa – Ongoing scouting to find an alternate route to the doubletrack on the mesa. Two routes are being studied – east and west of Lake Mary Road – and both will be presented to the USFS this summer.

Passage 31, Walnut Canyon – Partial funding secured for @ 6 miles of reroutes to remove the AZT from old roads, and minimize motorized trespassing issues. NEPA is ongoing and approval is anticipated by September. Contractor and volunteers will begin trail construction after that time.

Passage 33, Flagstaff – In collaboration with Flagstaff Biking Organization, a minor reroute was completed on National Trails Day to remove the AZT from a forest road near Orion Spring. Fresh trail is well-built and more aligned with the AZT experience on the Flagstaff Ranger District.

Passage 34, Maverick Singletrack Project – Final layout and design is near completion but has been put on hold due to the Slate Fire, now at 10,000 acres and growing.

Passage 35, Babbitt Ranch – The next two miles of the Babbitt Ranch Singletrack Project will be built this summer, eliminating the road between Cedar Ranch and AZT west of Tub Ranch.

Passage 37, South Kaibab – Grandview gate installed with support from a local equestrian group!

Passage 41, Kaibab Plateau-Central – Proposed 1-mile Orderville reroute to remove the AZT from dirt road south of Orderville Trailhead. Kiosk installation and trailhead improvement project planned for August.

Passage 42, Kaibab Plateau-North – Scouted Mangum Fire Reroute with USFS. Additional review is needed before an official alignment is submitted, but that should be accomplished this summer. The AZT remains rerouted along a detour of forest roads between Orderville Trailhead and Winter Road Trailhead.

Passage 43, Buckskin Mountain – boulders moved to protect the northern terminus obelisk from vehicles parking nearby; will help with “finish” photo ops as well. Awaiting a meeting with BLM staff to discuss Pine Hollow Fire restoration plans.