

## **Trail Operations Report**

In addition to routine maintenance along the entire Arizona National Scenic Trail, here are some important improvements, completed projects, and other updates for the AZT's 43 passages:

**Passage 1, Huachuca Mountains** – Sierra Vista Ranger District organized Conservation Crews to help clear deadfall reported by thru-hikers. ATA Staff and Volunteers camped at Bear Spring for maintenance Between Bear Saddle and Sunnyside Canyon.

**Passage 2, Canelo Hills East** – Conservation corps completed major repairs south of Middle Canyon. USFS used 1.8 miles of trail south of Canelo Pass Trailhead as fire-break. Overall, the trail is in good shape but ATA will request funding to naturalize where brush was removed, repair drainage, and ongoing corridor work as brush grows back into the trail.

**Passage 3, Canelo Hills West** – USFS used 1.8 miles of trail north of Canelo Pass Trailhead as fire-break. Overall, the trail is in good shape but ATA will request funding to naturalize where brush was removed, repair drainage, and ongoing corridor work as brush grows back into the trail.

**Passages 3-4, Temporal Gulch Reroute Project** – 11.1 miles of new trail construction completed this season (October 1-June 15): 4.5-mile Temporal Gulch Connector Trail. 3.1 miles from Wood Canyon to El Pilar. 3.5 Miles from Gardner Canyon to Hog Canyon Road. Including updates to signage, maps, and the FarOut App. Casa Blanca Canyon Trailhead, kiosk, signage and connector to AZT complete. Four gates installed. Only 7 Miles to go, including installation of 4 gates, 4 emblem signs, 2 kiosk signs and removal of signage at old route to complete the project in 2023.

**Passage 5, Santa Rita Mountains** – Initial layout and design of 14 miles of new trail, to remove the trail from about 10 miles of heavily used dirt roads between Fish Canyon and Oak Tree Canyon has begun.

**Passage 6, Las Colinas** – Conservation corps completed major repairs to improve drainage, remedy fall-line segments of poorly designed trail, remove catclaw acacia, prickly pear overgrowth throughout the passage between Helvetia Road and the Lakes Road. The Coronado National Forest approved construction of the Oak Tree Canyon Trailhead – we will begin this in October.

**Passage 7, Las Cienegas** – Pima County approved replacement of existing fiberglass signs with steel. Usual Suspects with Steward involvement will implement this summer.

**Passage 8, Rincon Valley** – Southern Arizona Hiking club completed maintenance on their entire passage.

**Passage 10, Redington Pass** – Tucson Off Road Cyclists and Activists completed maintenance on their entire passage.

**Passage 11C, Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bypass** – Butterfly and Crystal Spring Trail have been reopened after the Bighorn Fire. Assessment completed, two major drainage blow outs will

require complete rebuilds this autumn.

**Passage 12, Oracle Ridge** – ATA met with Eagle Mountain Mine staff regarding exploratory drilling at Oracle Ridge. They agreed to place barrier fencing, signage, and a temporary water source as a goodwill gesture to trail users. One hiker recently found dead along this passage and investigation is underway.

**Passage 15, Tortilla Mountains** – Installation of 50-gallon drum to catch spring water near Bathtub Spring near Ripsey Wash to improve reliability and quality along this dry segment of trail.

**Passage 16, Gila River Canyons** – ATA Staff, volunteers, and stewards completed maintenance on the first 3 miles of trail between Kelvin and the trestle bridge to include tread reinforcement and drainage with rock armoring, cribbing, and installation of six check steps.

**Passage 17, Alamo Canyon** – Conservation corps completed trail rehabilitation after the Telegraph Fire.

**Passage 19, Superstition Wilderness** – ATA Staff and volunteers completed scouting for a 4.5 mile reroute of the “Big Dip” between Campaign and Two Bar Ridge. Volunteer maintenance completed north of Rogers Trough Trailhead.

**Passage 20, Four Peaks** – Conservation corps continued general maintenance and rehab work after the Bush Fire of 2020.

**Passage 21, Pine Mountain** – Volunteers completed three minor realignments of approximately ¾-mile to improve tread conditions and sustainability south of Sycamore Creek. State Parks gave final approval for a \$50K maintenance grant to repair damaged trail due to the Bush Fire. ATA hosted a Volunteer Vacation focused primarily on brush removal.

**Passage 22, Saddle Mountain** – Kicking off the Sunflower North project, volunteers and a Trails Skills Institute attendees completed a 1,700-ft realignment, including installation of a gate and a raised cattle guard. A State Parks Heritage grant will fund approximately 3 miles of machine construction this fall, and volunteers will finish behind the machine and install three more gates and one more raised cattle guard. Conservation corps continued general maintenance between Mormon Grove TH and the Wilderness Boundary.

**Passage 23, Mazatzal Divide** – Conservation corps completed maintenance and rebuilt trail after landslide obliterated trail after the Bush Fire.

**Passage 26, Highline** – Contractors continue to make progress on re-construction and maintenance along the Highline.

**Passage 31, Walnut Canyon** – Work has begun to replace 3 miles of old road with singletrack.

**Passage 32, Elden Mountain** – The Mount Elden-Dry Lake Hills Recreation Plan has been approved and implementation will begin soon. This will include significant improvements to the AZT near Flagstaff, and a possible redesignation of the Flagstaff Urban Route (Passage 33)

away from Schultz Creek.

**Passage 35, Babbitt Ranch** – Singletrack project is complete, including updates to signage, maps, and the FarOut App.

**Passage 39, Grand Canyon - North Rim** – Assessment completed of 68 downed trees in 12 miles from North Kaibab to park boundary. Photos, GPS waypoints, and dimensions obtained and submitted to Park Trails staff for review and approval to move forward with volunteer projects to clear the route.

**Passage 41, Kaibab Plateau-Central** – Volunteers with the AZT VETS program constructed 7300' of new trail to remove the trail from dirt road south of Orderville Trailhead. About 1000' remains, including signage, and will be completed later this summer.

**Passage 42, Kaibab Plateau-North** – The AZT remains rerouted along a detour of forest roads between Orderville Trailhead and Winter Road Trailhead. Mangum Reroute approved! Construction scheduled for later this summer.

**Passage 43, Buckskin Mountain** – BLM repaired the erosion damage at the culverts near the northern terminus. Assessment completed to recommend measures to reinforce and beautify the trail.