



Chapter 4: Recommendations

Priority Recommendations

The priority issues for both motorized and nonmotorized trails recreation, in addition to other important issues that were discussed in Chapter 3, are derived from a comparative analysis of the findings from the *ARIZONA TRAILS 2000* public involvement process. The priority issues and recommendations from the 1993 State OHV Recreation Plan and 1994 State Trails Plan were considered as well.

This chapter takes these priority issues and presents recommendations for managers and trail users based on those issues. The priority recommendations are from those issues that ranked the highest. Also included are other recommendations that did not rank as high. Some of the recommendations for motorized and nonmotorized trail uses are identical, some are completely different depending on the findings and priority level of the individual issues.

These recommendations reflect statewide priorities; local and regional priorities may differ.

Table 15 summarizes the recommendations for both motorized and nonmotorized trail use followed by a more detailed explanation of each along with recommended actions.

While most of the recommendations are directed to managers, some focus on trail users. Priority recommendations for motorized trail use (🏍️) are presented first (page 38), followed by priority recommendations for nonmotorized trail use (🚶) (page 41), and then other recommendations for both motorized and nonmotorized trail use (page 44).

The following page cites the legislative references that mandate Arizona State Parks to prepare statewide OHV and Trails Plans and make recommendations to agencies and the private sector regarding expenditures from the OHV Recreation Fund and the trails component of the Arizona Heritage Fund respectively and the Federal Recreational Trails Program.

The Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was authorized in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) in 1998 (23 U.S.C. 206). The RTP is a Federal-aid assistance program to help the States provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail use. The Act authorizes funds to be distributed to each State. The Governor of Arizona designated the Arizona State Parks Board as the administrator of Arizona's portion of RTP monies.

The RTP Act defines recreational trail as a *"thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes such as: pedestrian activities, including wheelchair use; skating or skateboarding; equestrian activities, including carriage driving; nonmotorized snow trail activities, including skiing; bicycling or use of other human-powered vehicles; aquatic or water activities; and motorized vehicular activities, including all-terrain vehicle riding, motorcycling, snowmobiling, use of off-road light trucks, or use of other off-road motorized vehicles."*



Mandate for Motorized Trail Use Recommendations

Arizona legislation (A.R.S. § 41-511.04) directs the Arizona State Parks Board to “maintain a statewide off-highway vehicle recreational plan which shall be updated at least once every six years and shall be used by all participating agencies to guide distribution and expenditure of monies under § 28-1176 (Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund) “. . . to establish a facility development program based on the priorities established in the OHV Plan.”

Therefore, the recommendations beginning on page 38 will be used by all participating agencies to guide distribution of funds administered by Arizona State Parks from the OHV Recreation Fund and Federal Recreation Trails Program until the next plan, as well as serve as overall direction for Arizona State Parks, land managers and OHV users in their efforts to improve the state of Arizona's motorized trail opportunities.



Mandate for Nonmotorized Trail Use Recommendations

Arizona legislation (A.R.S. § 41-511.22) directs the Arizona State Parks Board to “prepare a trail systems plan that . . . assesses usage of trails . . . and recommends to federal, state, regional, local and tribal agencies and to the private sector actions which will enhance the trails systems,” and that “five percent of monies received pursuant to Section 5-522 (Arizona Heritage Fund) shall be spent on local, regional and state trails” (A.R.S. § 41-503).

Therefore, the recommendations beginning on page 41 will be used to guide distribution of funds administered by Arizona State Parks from the trails component of the Arizona Heritage Fund and Federal Recreation Trails Program until the next plan, as well as serve as overall direction for Arizona State Parks, land managers and trail users in their efforts to improve the state of Arizona's nonmotorized trail opportunities.

The legislation referenced above also includes directives to identify significant trail routes and assess their condition. Arizona State Parks accomplishes this mandate through the implementation of the State Trails System which is further explained in Appendix C.



Table 15. ARIZONA TRAILS 2000 Recommendations Summary



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS for the 1999 State OHV Recreation Plan

- 1. Preserve Existing Trails and OHV Areas**
 - a. Prevent closures through comprehensive analysis of alternatives
 - b. Preserve OHV opportunities in semiprimitive motorized settings
- 2. Renovate Eroded or Deteriorated Trails**
 - a. Prioritize reconstruction over new development
 - b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets
- 3. Protect Access to Trails and OHV Areas**
 - a. Plan for access and acquire easements to trails
 - b. Coordinate trail access needs with stakeholders
- 4. Promote Trail Etiquette and Environmental Ethics**
 - a. Expand trail etiquette and environmental ethics resources
 - b. Improve manager training
 - c. Enforce/follow rules and regulations
 - d. Encourage shared use and cooperation on trails
- 5. Plan for and Develop New OHV Opportunities**
 - a. Establish OHV opportunities close to home
 - b. Develop OHV opportunities for specific activities
 - c. Complete special projects to serve as models



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS for the 1999 State Nonmotorized Trails Plan

- 1. Renovate Eroded or Deteriorated Trails**
 - a. Prioritize reconstruction over new development
 - b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets
- 2. Keep Existing Trails Clean and Clear**
 - a. Reduce litter and trash on trails through education
 - b. Prioritize maintenance over new development
 - c. Promote and support volunteer trail maintenance
- 3. Promote Trail Etiquette and Environmental Ethics**
 - a. Expand trail etiquette and environmental ethics resources
 - b. Enforce/follow rules and regulations
 - c. Encourage shared use and cooperation on trails
- 4. Protect Access to Trails**
 - a. Plan for access and acquire easements to trails
 - b. Coordinate trail access needs with stakeholders
- 5. Incorporate Trails into Local and Regional Planning**
 - a. Promote interagency coordination to address regional needs
 - b. Plan for the changing needs of trail users
 - c. Establish trail opportunities close to home

Other Recommendations

- Promote Interagency Coordination and Consistency (motorized trail use)
- Address User Conflicts and Safety Issues (nonmotorized trail use)
- Develop New Trail Opportunities (nonmotorized trail use)
- Reduce Environmental and Cultural Resource Impacts (both motorized and nonmotorized trail use)
- Provide Current Trail Information and Detailed Maps (both motorized and nonmotorized trail use)
- Enhance Support Facilities (both motorized and nonmotorized trail use)
- Improve User/Manager Communication (both motorized and nonmotorized trail use)
- Seek Additional Funding Sources (both motorized and nonmotorized trail use)



Motorized Trail Use Recommendations

Managers of motorized recreational trails and roads are encouraged to concentrate on the following actions. Trail users can also assist with many of these recommended actions.

1. PRESERVE EXISTING TRAILS AND OHV AREAS

Issue: Urbanization, reclassification of land use, and closures due to environmental concerns are changing the availability of quality motorized trails recreation. Cooperation and compromise in land use decisions are required to balance different needs.

Actions

1a. Prevent closures through comprehensive analysis of alternatives

- Respond to the public concern over closures through consideration of alternatives to closures
- Include OHV user input when considering alternatives to closures
- Mitigate loss of OHV opportunity through the creation of new or alternative opportunities
- Strive for "no net loss" of OHV opportunities

1b. Preserve OHV opportunities in semiprimitive motorized settings

- Inventory and protect areas that provide the semiprimitive motorized experience
- Develop site-specific management prescriptions for each semiprimitive motorized area
- Acquire land parcels or rights of way that connect semiprimitive motorized routes/systems



2. RENOVATE ERODED/DETERIORATED TRAILS

Issue: Increased use of backcountry trails and roads not originally designed for intensive use has caused erosion and deterioration. A general lack of financial resources has forced managers to cut back agency-funded trail crews and/or close trails. However, addressing erosion does not require improving a primitive road to passenger car standards. Motorized recreationists prefer keeping OHV routes open while maintaining a challenging level of difficulty.

Actions

2a. Prioritize reconstruction over new development

- Reconstruct existing trails to meet low maintenance standards while retaining desirable OHV conditions
- Renovate OHV trails and areas by incorporating existing and historically used areas with proper design and relocation of trail segments
- Incorporate standards for barrier-free access to trail resources as specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA guidelines)

2b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets

- Support establishment of an interagency trails crew trained, equipped and available to travel and work on projects regionally and/or statewide
- Form partnerships with other agencies or the private sector to cooperatively fund trail projects
- Pursue alternative funding sources, such as grants and corporate donations
- Promote Adopt-A-Trail/Road and volunteer programs with individuals, clubs and businesses to offset maintenance budgets (develop training materials such as videos and guidelines for volunteers to assist with trail projects)



3. PROTECT ACCESS TO TRAILS AND OHV AREAS

Issue: Access refers to the ability of the user to get to the trailhead or area where the recreational opportunity exists. As land continues to be developed to accommodate Arizona's expanding population, access to trails and OHV areas can be impacted, and sometimes completely eliminated, if trails and access points are not incorporated in general plans.

Actions

3a. Plan for access and acquire easements to trails

- Develop plans that identify future trails, open space and public access points; enact access ordinances
- Acquire easements and rights of way to protect existing connections

3b. Coordinate trail access needs with stakeholders

- Work with all stakeholders, including users, adjacent landowners and developers, to promote a common understanding of access problems and trail benefits and to develop solutions
- Partner with the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Access Program to maximize effectiveness on public access issues

4. PROMOTE TRAIL ETIQUETTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Issue: A lack of trail etiquette and environmental ethics practiced by trail users causes increased conflicts among users, especially on heavily used trails, and can negatively impact the environment. Littering, excessive speed, not yielding to others, not staying on trails, vandalism and an inability of managers to enforce regulations leads to continued user conflicts and environmental impacts.



Actions

4a. Expand trail etiquette and environmental ethics resources

- Coordinate trail education materials and programs with other agencies to provide consistent messages
- Present information that recognizes the diversity of age, expertise, ability and motivation of OHV users
- Incorporate trail etiquette and ethics materials into school and youth programs
- Encourage local trail groups to take the lead in presenting trail education programs in schools and youth groups and to serve as mentors to youth
- Use the Internet to provide information to trail users
- Amplify the use of "tread lightly®," "Leave No Trace," and "Pack It In—Pack It Out" messages/campaigns
- Advocate/persuade the motor vehicle industry to practice responsible OHV advertising

4b. Improve manager training

- Take advantage of courses through partners like the National OHV Conservation Council and the Colorado State University OHV Correspondence Courses to improve management skills for OHV resources
- Develop consistent training programs for all staff engaged in trail and OHV management
- Include all resource specialists in OHV training programs to increase awareness of management needs

4c. Enforce/follow rules and regulations

- Strive for consistency between agencies and clarity in presentation and enforcement of rules and regulations

It is the trail user's responsibility to:

- Know and follow trail rules and regulations on the lands they are using

**4d. Encourage shared use and cooperation on trails**

- Promote "share the trail" and emphasize cooperation, tolerance and respect for other trail users
- Prominently sign multiple-use trails with specific yield instructions for trail users
- Establish/encourage local volunteer programs to present trail etiquette, safety, and environmental ethics to groups and schools
- Recognize that certain trails are more appropriate for accommodating multiple use and others less so; visibly sign each trail accordingly

5. PLAN FOR/DEVELOP NEW OHV OPPORTUNITIES

Issue: Demand for OHV opportunities, especially adjacent to communities, is increasing. Many existing trails and areas are not planned, designed, or constructed specifically for OHV activities. Land use plans frequently do not provide for OHV recreation. Traditionally used areas are often displaced by urbanization without providing for alternate use areas which can lead to unmanaged and unauthorized OHV use. Prohibiting use without providing alternatives is an ineffective solution.

*Actions***5a. Establish OHV opportunities close to home**

- Integrate OHV recreation needs into community and land use plans
- Inventory/evaluate existing OHV areas for retention and improvement as formal OHV use areas or parks
- Provide legal corridors for OHV travel from communities to adjacent trail systems and public lands
- Coordinate OHV plans with affected agencies such as Arizona Game & Fish Dept. and law enforcement *early in the process* to address concerns and needs

**5b. Develop OHV opportunities for specific activities**

- Plan and develop single-track trails for motorized trail bikes, Trials and competitive events
- Incorporate natural and cultural aspects into OHV routes to enhance the recreation experience
- Incorporate standards for barrier-free access to trail resources as specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA guidelines)

5c. Complete special projects to serve as models

- Promote managed OHV areas as recreational amenities to adjacent communities
- Prioritize the planning and completion of well-designed and/or high-profile OHV projects

Other Motorized Trail Use Recommendations

The following are additional recommendations which did not rank as high as the previous recommendations, but are important and may be locally significant.

• Promote Interagency Coordination and Consistency

Issue: Managers and users agree there is contradictory information and confusion where OHV rules and regulations are concerned. There is a need to standardize and coordinate OHV rules, regulations and enforcement.

Actions

- Coordinate the standardization of rules and regulations across surface management boundaries
- Advocate revisions in law or agency regulations where existing statutes/rules are contradictory or confusing
- Educate the users regarding the rules and regulations on the lands they are using



Nonmotorized Trail Use Recommendations

Managers of nonmotorized recreational trails are encouraged to concentrate on the following actions. Trail users can also assist with many of these recommended actions.

1. RENOVATE ERODED/DETERIORATED TRAILS

Issue: Trail users are concerned that the quality of their experience is being diminished through trail deterioration and erosion. This can be due to natural causes, overuse, improper design, or a lack of regular maintenance. A general lack of resources has forced managers to cut back agency-funded trail crews and close trails.

Actions

1a. Prioritize reconstruction over new development

- Reconstruct existing trails to meet low maintenance standards
- Renovate trails by incorporating existing and historically used areas with proper design and relocation of trail segments
- Incorporate standards for barrier-free access to trail resources as specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA guidelines)

1b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets

- Support establishment of an interagency trails crew trained, equipped and available to travel and work on projects regionally and/or statewide
- Form partnerships with other agencies or the private sector to cooperatively fund trail projects
- Research alternative funding sources, such as grants and corporate donations



- Promote Adopt-A-Trail and volunteer programs with individuals, clubs and businesses to offset maintenance budgets (develop training materials such as videos and guidelines for volunteers to assist with trail projects)

2. KEEP EXISTING TRAILS CLEAN AND CLEAR

Issue: Littering and lack of routine maintenance are visible problems and negatively impact many trail users. Users have overwhelmingly stated this is a concern regarding quality of experience. Managers lack the resources necessary to provide regular trail upkeep.

Actions

2a. Reduce litter and trash through education

- Establish/practice a "Pack It In—Pack It Out" policy
- Amplify "Pack It In—Pack It Out" and "Leave No Trace" messages/campaigns
- Partner with "Arizona Clean & Beautiful" organizations to maximize resources for school and community-based anti-litter campaigns

2b. Prioritize maintenance over new development

- Design and construct trails for low maintenance
- Balance overall budgets to emphasize maintenance

2c. Promote and support volunteer trail maintenance

- Provide volunteer coordination training for trail managers and appropriate training for volunteers
- Implement Adopt-a-Trail and volunteer programs
- Organize maintenance and clean-up events or other special projects on heavily used trails
- Encourage trail users to volunteer with nonprofit trail organizations



3. PROMOTE TRAIL ETIQUETTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Issue: A lack of trail etiquette and environmental ethics practiced by trail users causes increased conflicts among users, especially on heavily used trails, and can negatively impact the environment. Littering, excessive speed, not yielding to others, not staying on trails, vandalism and an inability of managers to enforce regulations leads to continued user conflicts and environmental impacts.

Actions

3a. Expand trail etiquette and environmental ethics resources

- Coordinate trail education materials and programs with other agencies to provide consistent messages
- Present information that recognizes the diversity of age, expertise, ability and motivation of trail users
- Incorporate trail etiquette and ethics materials into school and youth programs
- Encourage local trail groups to take the lead in presenting trail education programs in schools and youth groups and to serve as mentors to youth
- Use the Internet to provide information to trail users
- Amplify the use of "tread lightly®," "Leave No Trace," and "Pack It In—Pack It Out" messages/campaigns

3b. Enforce/follow rules and regulations

- Strive for consistency among agencies and clarity in presentation and enforcement of rules and regulations; pursue interagency discussions/coordination

It is the trail user's responsibility to:

- Know and follow trail rules and regulations on the lands they are using



3c. Encourage shared use and cooperation on trails

- Promote "share the trail" and emphasize cooperation, tolerance and respect for other trail users
- Prominently sign multiple-use trails with specific yield instructions for trail users
- Recognize that certain trails are more appropriate for accommodating multiple use and others less so; visibly sign each trail accordingly

4. PROTECT ACCESS TO TRAILS

Issue: Access refers to the ability of the user to get to the trailhead or area where the recreational opportunity exists. As land use changes and areas are developed to accommodate Arizona's expanding population, access to trails can be impacted, and sometimes completely eliminated, if trails and access points are not incorporated into general plans.

Actions

4a. Plan for access and acquire easements to trails

- Develop plans that identify future trails, open space and public access points
- Create and enforce ordinances that protect trails and trail access
- Acquire easements and rights of way to protect existing connections

4b. Coordinate trail access needs with stakeholders

- Coordinate with developers to include trails and access to adjacent trails within master plans
- Work with all stakeholders, including users, adjacent landowners and developers, to promote a common understanding of access problems and trail benefits and to develop solutions



5. INCORPORATE TRAILS INTO LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Issue: Demand for trails and different types of use, especially within and adjacent to communities, is increasing. As more lands are developed, planning for trails recreation on a local and regional level becomes more important. The public demands trail opportunities that link homes to public lands and other communities.

Actions

5a. Promote interagency coordination to address regional trail needs

- Develop regional trail system plans (multijurisdictional—involve adjacent communities, landowners and governments)
- Inventory existing trails and prioritize needs on a regional basis; use uniform mapping techniques across jurisdictions
- Incorporate regional destination points along trails such as scenic vistas and historical sites
- Partner with other governmental entities to ensure a degree of uniformity and quality among trail systems
- Involve trail users and the public in trail policy, planning and management decisions
- Coordinate trail plans with affected agencies such as Arizona Game & Fish Department and law enforcement *early in the process* to address concerns and needs

5b. Plan for the changing needs of trail users

- Prepare for the needs of an aging population
- Incorporate standards for barrier-free access to trail resources as specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA guidelines)
- Plan for changes associated with new trail uses and emerging trends



- Provide for shared use and single-use specialty trails
- Regularly evaluate who is using trails and why and address the demands

5c. Establish trail opportunities close to home

- Integrate trail recreation needs into community master plans and general land use plans
- Develop trail systems within communities, including links to other communities and public lands
- Create trail networks that serve as alternate transportation routes

Other Nonmotorized Trail Use Recommendations

The following are additional recommendations which did not rank as high as the previous recommendations, but are important and may be locally significant.

• Address User Conflicts and Safety Issues

Issue: Conflicts between trail users increase when unintended activities or inappropriate behaviors occur such as mountain bicycles using a foot-only trail or users not yielding to others. This leads to unpleasant trail experiences and can be a serious safety issue.

Actions

- Design, designate and manage trails for planned uses
- Promote “share the trail” and yield information to reduce conflicts
- Prominently post information/signs regarding appropriate trail use and types at trailheads and along trails
- Address trail safety issues through brochures, displays/kiosks, and educational programs, especially in elementary schools
- Use staff and volunteers to patrol high conflict trails



•Develop New Trail Opportunities

Issue: There is demand for new trail opportunities in areas experiencing high growth rates. Also as the types of activities change and new ones emerge, trails that provide for a specific type of activity may be needed.

Actions

- Develop trail opportunities for specific activities such as single-track trails for mountain bicycles, mountain boards and competitive events in appropriate areas to provide for those needs and to reduce conflicts on other trails
- Incorporate natural and cultural aspects into trail routes to enhance the recreation experience
- Complete special projects to serve as models
- Develop and promote trail networks as recreational and transportation amenities to adjacent communities
- Prioritize the planning and implementation of well-designed and/or high-profile trail projects



Other Recommendations for Both Motorized and Nonmotorized Trail Use

The following are additional recommendations which did not rank as high as the priority recommendations, but are important and may be locally significant.

◆Reduce Environmental and Cultural Resource Impacts

Issue: If not properly planned and managed, recreational use can impact natural and cultural resources. There needs



to be a balance between resource protection and providing recreational opportunities.

Actions

- Conduct research to determine the impacts of trail use on wildlife and natural resources
- Consider impacts to and needs of wildlife and sensitive areas when planning and designing trails; coordinate with affected agencies early in the planning process
- Consider that wildlife viewing, bird-watching, visiting historic sites and retracing historic routes are valued by trail users and plan accordingly

◆Provide Current Trail Information and Detailed Maps

Issue: Trail users request information and detailed maps that provide up-to-date, accurate information regarding trail conditions and routes. Much of the information available is out of date or too general. Motorized recreationists request information and detailed maps for areas that are legal and open to OHV use. Currently there is not much information available.

Actions

- Include trail users in the development of maps and information
- Provide GPS grid systems (latitude/longitude) on access maps instead of Township/Range systems
- Develop brochures, displays/kiosks, and use the media to convey accurate and up-to-date information
- Post updated maps and information at trailheads, visitor centers, and on the Internet



◆ Enhance Support Facilities

Issue: In addition to the actual trail resource, users require support facilities appropriate to the area's use and activities. Well-designed support facilities also assist the manager in protecting resources.

Actions

- Emphasize a “pack it in/pack it out” ethic to reduce litter on trails rather than providing more dumpsters
- Encourage recreationists to pack extra trash bags and pack out more than they packed in
- Provide camping and sanitation facilities, especially group sites, adjacent to trail networks
- Standardize and maintain a signage system, especially for access and directional signs

◆ Improve User/Manager Communication

Issue: Trail users want to volunteer to assist managers in planning and developing trail resources to achieve quality recreational opportunities. Often land managers lack understanding of the users' desired experience while the user may not fully understand the land managers' mandates for land stewardship.

Manager Actions

- Involve trail enthusiasts, informally and formally, in planning and management decisions
- Provide the public with sufficient, accurate and understandable information regarding land use plans and decisions so they can make informed responses
- Engage recreationists through field trips designed to share the user's experience
- Hire specialists willing to engage local motorized and nonmotorized trail organizations; provide these personnel with necessary technical training



User Actions

- Invite managers and other decision makers to experience trail and OHV opportunities in the field
- Commit to volunteer Adopt-a-Trail efforts and other stewardship projects
- Participate in the planning process—attend meetings, review plans and provide comments on projects that impact trails and OHV areas
- Form multiple-use coalitions to become more effective participants in land management decisions
- Take the initiative by formulating citizen proposals for the protection and management of trail opportunities
- Communicate concerns and interests to decision makers and elected officials
- Request to be included on agencies' public involvement mailing lists

◆ Seek Additional Funding Sources

Issue: An audit of the Forest Service by the General Accounting Office shows that 74% of its contribution to the gross national product comes from outdoor recreation, especially camping, fishing and hiking; yet Congress allocates only 2.5% of the Forest Service budget to recreation (Steinstra, 1997). While recreation budgets need to be increased, additional funding sources also need to be pursued.

Lack of funding for trails emerged as a top priority in the public input process. Workshop participants stated the need for more funds for personnel, volunteer programs, trail maintenance and development, planning and NEPA requirements, signs and support facilities. A recommendation that agency trail budgets be increased is often looked at with skepticism and dismissed as unrealistic and unproductive.



Funding is often perceived by managers and users as an issue about which they can do little. The following recommended actions may help generate ideas.

Actions

- Seek out partnerships with for-profit businesses (request donations of materials, equipment and vehicles); non-profit organizations such as Arizona Clean & Beautiful litter campaigns; and other governmental agencies (sharing trail crews and equipment)
- Encourage volunteerism from local clubs and recreation enthusiasts (promote Adopt-a-Trail efforts; advertise weekend work projects, let garden clubs/nurseries landscape trails and group use areas)
- Actively pursue grants, corporate donations and other alternative funding sources such as federal TEA-21 funds
- Provide grant writing, partnership and volunteer coordination training for managers
- Provide relevant information in a concise, accurate format to decision makers and elected officials advocating the need for additional trails funding (include economic impacts and other benefits of trails, current budgets, dollar value of volunteer efforts, and capital improvement/project lists with budget needs attached)

User Fee Acceptance. The *ARIZONA TRAILS 2000* survey discovered that 73% of trail users are willing to pay a user fee for trails as long as the monies went towards trail improvements in the same area. A recent national study validates this finding (Johnson, 1997). This potential funding source may be part of Arizona's trail recreation management strategy for the future.

Research has proven that recreation fees work and indicates that they are probably here to stay. The Forest Service and other federal agencies began a demonstration program in 1996 to test the effectiveness of recreation fees. Each area retains 75% of the new revenues with the balance going to areas less able to collect (USDA Forest Service, 1996a).

In the Pacific Northwest, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest implemented the Trail for Generations Trail Park Project specifically designed to generate funds for trail maintenance through trailhead parking fees (USDA Forest Service, 1997a). In ten months, the project generated \$532,000, \$460,000 of which was returned directly to that National Forest (USDA Forest Service, 1998a).

Not all areas are this self-sufficient. Remote areas and areas with minimal visitation are unable to generate ample funds to offset budget cuts. The nature and extent of economic activity depend on a number of factors such as the type of area, facilities and services, features, location and management of the area (Bates, 1999).

In conclusion, this Plan will serve as statewide guidance for motorized and nonmotorized trails recreation for agencies and trail users for up to five years (2000 through 2004). This time frame allows Arizona State Parks, the trails community and land managers to act upon the high priority recommendations that will set standards for trails recreation in the 21st century.

