

September 26, 2013 – Red Rock Trail Planning Meeting Notes
6-8PM Hilton Hotel, Ridge Drive, Village of Oak Creek

Attendees included: R. Luedeker, K and D O'Brien, L. Luedeker, B. Whiting, D. Williamson, J. Levy, J. Finch, S. Escott, S. Hogan, J. Kusner, B. Kusner, O. Ostrom, P. Sullivan, B. Loewenstein, D. Copp, J. Young, M. Fogerty, E. Mace, A. Beeler, S. Gustav, G. Witteman, K. Peterson, C. Mace, M. Ward, C. Lombardi, J. Starkey, J. Starkey, C. Stevens, M. Davis, G. Domasley, J. Scoly, F. Adrian, F. Saville, J. Burns, M. O'Neil, S. Mish, F. Will, J. Meyers, L. Romig, D. Hitchcock, S. McClain, R. Sneed, D. Cichon, J. Seyfried. (apologies for misspellings)

Update from Jennifer Burns, Red Rock Recreation Manager, on trail decisions and activities; program for 2014 as follows.

1. ADOPT A TRAIL PROGRAM continues – contact Forrest Saville if interested in a class in October or November (203-7509). You can take the class even if you do not want to “adopt” a trail.
2. A grant from PeopleForBikes was received by Verde Valley Cyclists Association to be used to upgrade the trails known as High on the Hog, Hog Heaven and Hog Wash and to add two new connectors and remove several user created trails in the area; to design and install “share the trail” signage and directional signage. Other participants in the grant include IMBA, Sedona Real, OTE Sports, Bike and Bean and Absolute Bikes as well as others. For information contact Lars Romig, president of VVCC.
3. City of Sedona Council voted to approve \$30,000 for FS Adopt a Trail program.
4. October 8th will be City Council meeting and agenda item on a proposal for a bike skills park at Posse Grounds.
5. Rim Rock Trails Day/picnic on November 2 at 11 AM. The place is Sycamore Park, on the banks of Beaver Creek, Lake Montezuma. Everyone welcome!
6. Sedona View Trail will be worked on soon with a CREC crew (update – govt shutdown may delay this)
7. ACE crew is working on Bones Trail north of Dead Horse State Park, a 3+ mile trail for all nonmotorized users.
8. FOF Trail Maintenance Crew continues general maintenance work on the Girdner Trail.
9. VVCC has started a Wed AM volunteer trail crew, go to VVCC.us for more information on place and times.
10. National Forest Foundation has agreed to place virtual “donation” boxes at several locations on Red Rock Trails to try to raise donations for trail maintenance. Locations include Bell Rock Pathway, Yavapai Vista, Cathedral Rock Trail and Bell Rock Loop Trail near Courthouse Vista.

11. Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund is a developing not for profit with a mission to raise funds for trail maintenance in Red Rock area. Contact Rob Holman at Sedona Real Inn for more information.

PRELIMINARY RED ROCK AREA TRAILS PROGRAM – 2014

Based on anticipated funds/resources. This list does not include trail work outside of Sedona/VOC area.

HEALTH AND SAFETY is highest priority

- Search and Rescue sign improvements
- Continue sign replacement and additions at kiosks/junctions
- Emergency response to trail damage where safety is at stake
- Volunteer trail patrol (FOF and others)
- Website improvements
- Safety Coalition

MAINTENANCE OF TRAILS

- 40 miles of general maintenance and several special projects by volunteer crews (Friends of the Forest Trail Maintenance Crew; Adopt-a-Trail Program; VVCC sponsored trail work days; other volunteer work days throughout the year.)
- Volunteer management of sign-in registers (FOF)
- 40 miles of general maintenance – contract crew
- (Not funded: 180 miles of general trail maintenance)

MAINTENANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

- FOF
- City of Sedona Trails Partnership
- VVCC
- Sedona Westerners
- Chamber
- ANHA
- IMBA
- Big Park Council
- Sedona Red Rock Trail Fund (SRRTF)
- National Forest Foundation (NFF)

PLANNING

- Complete RTCA Trails Planning summary document
- Planning for several short connectors/reroutes
- (Not funded: Planning for Turkey Creek/Transept area trails; W. Civ/Last Frontier and other trails/connectors)

NEW CONSTRUCTION/ADDITIONS

- Sedona View Trail (CREC)
- Lower Bones Trail (ACE)
- Twin Buttes trails (VVCC PeopleForBikes grant)

- (Not funded: Upper Bones; Yucca; Canyon of Fools)

SPECIAL PROJECTS - SEEKING FUNDING

- Airport Saddle renovation and lot paving/stripping
- Cathedral Rock Trail heavy maintenance
- Bell Rock Pathway heavy maintenance
- Long Canyon and Mescal Parking lot heavy maintenance
- Kachina Trails renovation

2014 preliminary budget for trails = approximately \$116,000

Volunteer and partnership and grant support =	\$26,000
Planning and clearances (connectors only) =	\$25,000
Supplies, vehicles, training =	\$15,000
Maintenance crew specifications/supervision =	\$20,000
Maintenance crew (contract) =	\$30,000

Notes:

A four person contract maintenance crew is \$612 per mile of general maintenance.

The FS received a \$30,000 contribution from City of Sedona for volunteer trail maintenance program.

Presentation/discussion with Trail Mix representative Scott Escott. This will be posted as soon as a full transcript is acquired.

Report out on the preliminary trail survey results by Jennifer. See separate posting on website for this Survey Summary report and interpretation.

Summary Observations from Cate Bradly, RTCA Program – for September 26th 2013 public meeting:

- There is a high commitment or concern for trails, judging by the consistent attendance at these meetings
- Most people care most about protection of resources, as the survey results indicate
- A lot of people care about the trail system, but in different ways, following is what I heard at meetings and what was revealed through the survey results:

Equestrians want

- safety on the trails to prevent the type of accident that happened in Prescott
- adequate, designated and delineated parking spaces for trailer rigs (see Jan Hancock’s book Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds p.146-154)
- ways to keep others from parking in those spaces

Hikers want

- safety on trails
- maintenance of existing trails
- no more or limited expansion of the existing system

Mountain bikers want

- more trails
- connectors and loops
- trails for beginners

Search and Rescue want more signage on trails, especially at areas where repeated 911 calls occur and GPS markers on trails to improve efficiencies of rescue

- Forest Service budgets and staff are strained to keep up with public demands for recreation
- Natural and cultural resources are vulnerable to the high demand for recreation activity on the Red Rock District
- Certain volunteers are reliable for trail maintenance within the various FS volunteer trails programs
- Many, if not most, people are looking to the FS to address or solve their priority issues right away