

Flagstaff Trails Initiative





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Project Summary

...elevating Flagstaff's trails from
good to extraordinary





Why Trails?



Trails are a core part of the Flagstaff's region identity

and

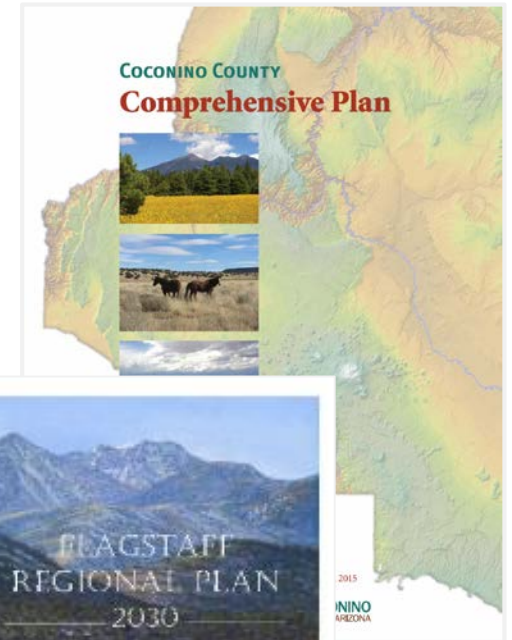
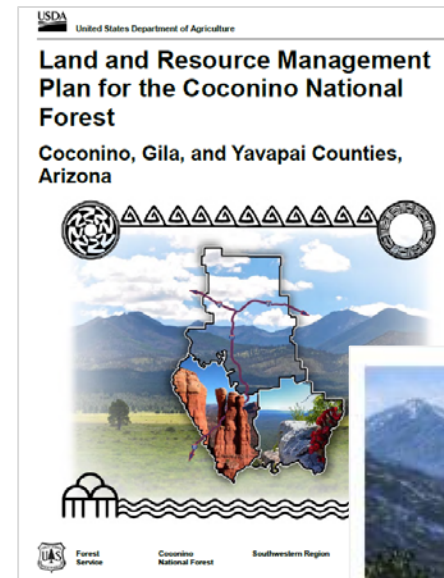
...every regional plan and vision identifies trails as an important community asset that should be enhanced...

yet

...no holistic and strategic effort to specifically address trails for nearly 20 years...

but

...there are few dedicated resources available for trail stewardship or maintenance





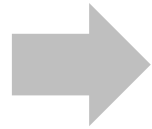
WHO?



**Trail
Providers**

**Trail
Users**

**Conservation
Advocates**



**come together to
frame up the...**



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**...as a means to
broaden
collaboration and
working relationships
with health, business,
tourism, youth, tribal,
conservation and
community interests**



WHO?



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=



Core
Team



R2R
Hiking
Club



FTI VISION



PLAN

+



BUILD

=



BALANCE

collaborate

partners

better trails

community

better experiences

environmental impacts

education

economic benefits



SO WHAT IS IT?

collaborative
multi-jurisdictional
all hands - all lands
inclusive
planning initiative
working to improve the region's recreational trails





PURPOSE OF FTI

PURPOSE

improve the quality, connectivity and community support for a sustainable trail system that balances the demand for recreation with the community's vision for conservation, development, and health.

OVERALL GOAL

Elevate the region's trails from "good to extraordinary"

OUTPUT

A **Flagstaff Regional Trail Strategy** that consolidates a variety of trail ideas and concepts into a single regional document. The Strategy will guide projects and stewardship across multiple jurisdictions



WHEN?



September 2017 Project launched with technical assistance award from the National Park Service

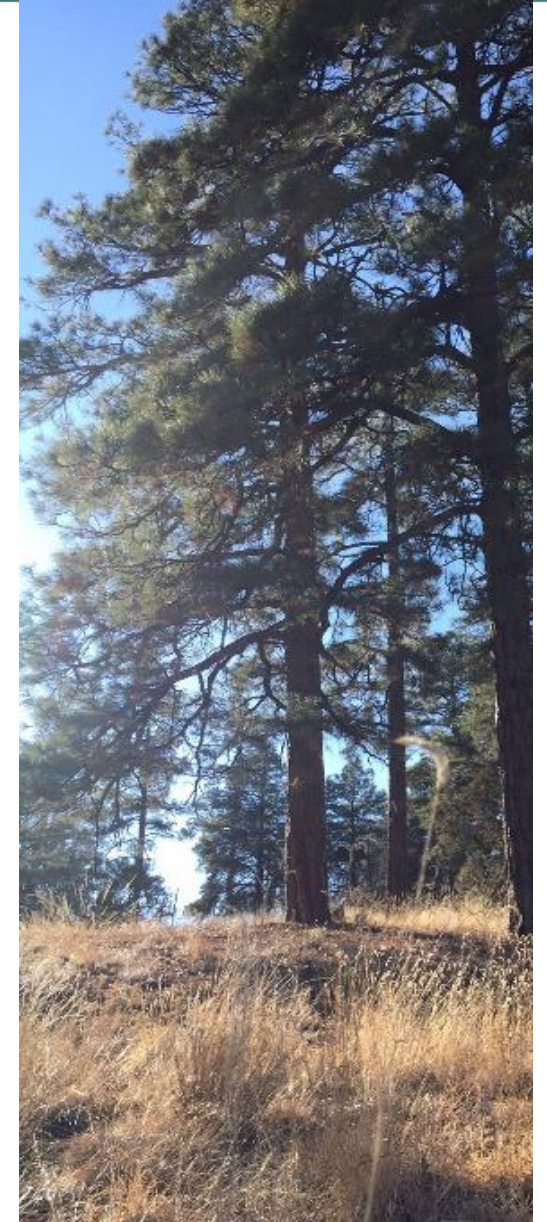
February 2018 Briefings to Flagstaff City Council and Coconino County Board of Supervisors

March 26, 2018 First Partner Workshop – focus topics identified

May 31, 2018 Second Partner Workshop

October 10, 2018 Kick-off Public Meeting

October to November 2018. FTI Trail Survey Open (550+ responses)





WHEN?



March 2019 Trail planning teams begin work

June 19, 2019 Public Open House

November 30, 2019 Draft Flagstaff Regional Trails Strategy released for public review

January 2020 Public meeting to present strategy and solicit feedback

March 2020 Final Flagstaff Regional Trail Strategy submitted to Council, County and federal agency leadership



FTI INTERACTIVE MAP



Total Miles of System Trails: **413 miles**

Estimated Miles of Unauthorized Trail: **335 miles**

Coconino National Forest	292.9
City of Flagstaff - FUTS	57.5
Coconino County	24.6
Private	23.5
City of Flagstaff – Open Space	7.9
National Park Service Monuments	5.2
Arizona Game and Fish Dept	1.3



WHAT WE HEARD...



Trail use is on the rise and will continue in a growing Flagstaff – needs management and care for natural setting

Existing trail system is good, but need to supplement for full range of experiences and protect key connections

Be inclusive when engaging the public

Limited funding is a concern (\$100k shortfall on Nat'l Forest)



TRAIL SURVEY



550+ Respondents 1,700 comments and ideas
Mapped successes/opportunities/concerns

"Flagstaff's trail system is a remarkable asset...it is one of the primary reasons my husband and I chose to live here"

"Other mountain towns have much better systems that appeal to many user groups and skill levels...we are literally 20-30 years behind"

"Better maintenance is needed on so many trails"

"My vision...is to have a safe, comprehensive, interconnected, easy to access network of trails"



HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED



Focus Topics.....

Education &
Outreach

Trail System
Planning

Financial
Sustainability

Conservation
& Restoration



WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING

Flagstaff Regional Trail Strategy



Photo Courtesy of WH Waters

Draft - November 2019



FTI has published **10 distinct goals and 30+ proposed strategies**, such as:

- Protection and construction of key trail connections
- Creation of a Flagstaff Trail Fund and new 501c3 organization
- A trail etiquette and “Share the Trails” education campaign
- Restoration of unauthorized trails and best practices



WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING

Flagstaff Regional Trail Strategy



Photo Courtesy of WH Waters

Draft - November 2019



Contains the Flagstaff Regional Trail Plan

- Nearly 100 projects generated by “citizen planners” through research-based, consensus driven process across all land ownerships and jurisdictions
- Prioritized in three tiers
- Approximately 51 miles of “high priority” trail and 3 trailheads



WAYS TO ENGAGE



1. Review the Regional Trail Strategy
2. Submit comments through the online engagement tool
3. Attend the January 2020 Open House
4. Donate



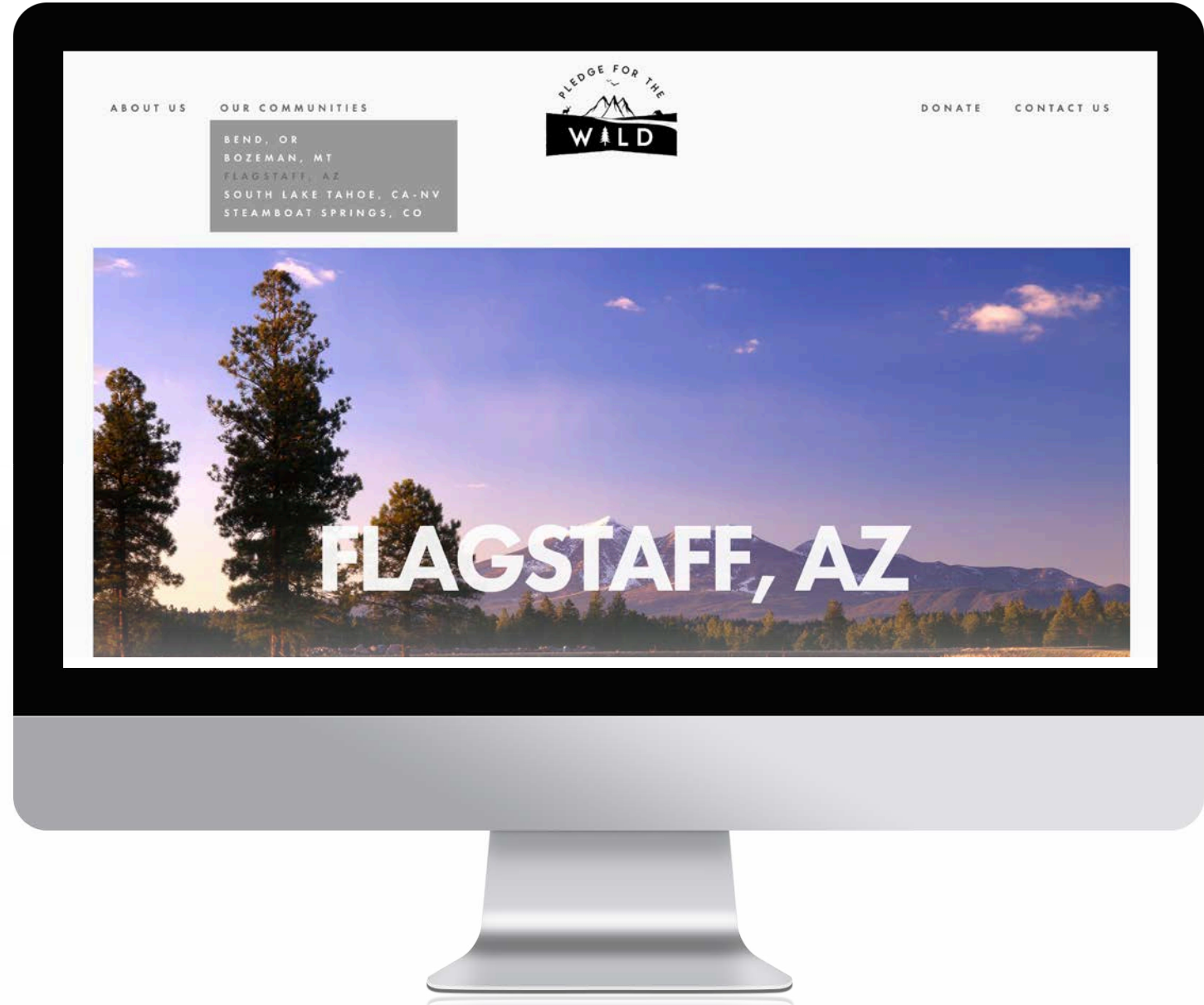


PLEDGE FOR THE WILD



- Bend, OR
- Bozeman, MT
- **Flagstaff, AZ**
- South Lake Tahoe, CA-NV
- Steamboat Springs, CO

pledgewild.com





NEXT STEPS



- Proposal accepted by United Way of Northern AZ to be the Fiscal Sponsor for FTI
- Collect one-time matching funds to support an Interim FTI Coordinator
- Select an Interim FTI Coordinator
- Finalize Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
- File for 501c3 status
- Recruit Board of Directors
- Continue efforts towards Financial and Organizational Sustainability, and Outreach and Communication
- Create a Flagstaff Trail Fund



QUESTIONS ?



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