

Canyon Echo

Winter 2024

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Palo Verde Group Rep. Don Steuter
Flagstaff N. AZ. Group Rep. Vacant
Saguaro Group Rep. Jo Sylvester
Yavapai Group Rep. Tom Slaback
Nopales Group Rep. Anakarina Rodriguez

At-large members of the Ex Com are elected by the members statewide. Group representatives are elected in their group geographic area. Other positions are appointed by the Ex Com.



BIPOCC: Black Indigenous People of Color Committee

CCL: Council of Club Leaders

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Happenings around AZ

Five groups make up the Grand Canyon Chapter. All events and meetings listed below are open to those interested in learning more about Sierra Club. You can find out more at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona>. Schedules are subject to change.

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/saguaro>

Chair:	Jo Sylvester	602-292-6806	stitchinjo@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	Ronda Frost	208-743-1006	junefrost@gmail.com
Secretary/Programs:	Sally Howland	602-663-2889	sally_howland@yahoo.com
Social Media:	Ronda Frost	208-743-1006	junefrost@gmail.com
Membership:	Sue Barsky		

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/palo-verde>

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Ex-Com (At-Large):	Lorena Hernandez		

Palo Verde Group executive committee meetings are the **second Thursday of each month** and programs are the **fourth Thursday of each month**.

Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/plateau>

Currently under reorganization

Yavapai Group (Prescott)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/yavapai>

Chair/Web/Treasurer:	Gary Beverly	928-308-1003	gbverde@cableone.net
Vice-Chair/Conservation:	Tom Slaback	928-778-4233	theprescottkid@mail.com
Secretary/Outings:	Jenny Cobb	928-925-1320	cobbsrun@msn.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Stan Bindell	928-636-3903	thebluesmagician@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Stephen Cook	575-418-9027	scook@projectworldview.org

Yavapai group programs & Executive Committee meetings are held on the **first Wednesday of the month**.

Nopales (Tucson)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/rincon>

Chair:	Vanessa Gallego	gallego.vanessa@gmail.com
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Secretary/Note taker:	Vacant	
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Group Rep./ Outings Chair:	Anakarina Rodriguez	akrod520@gmail.com
At-Large Member:	Rebecca Hinton	rahinton@hotmail.com

Chapter Announcements

Wildlife Activist Group Virtual Meetings JAN 8, FEB 5, MAR 4 (MON) 6pm. Interested in making a difference for wildlife? Want to help protect habitat, gather important research data on wildlife, or watchdog the Arizona Game and Fish Commission? Please consider joining our Wildlife Activist Group. For more information, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Renewable Energy & Climate Action Team Virtual Meetings, JAN 23, FEB 27, MAR 26 (TUE) 6:30pm. Discussions and programs encompass renewable energy and energy efficiency campaigns nationally and locally. Everyone is invited to participate, no matter how much or how little you know about energy issues. For more information, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Arizona Sierra Club Conservation Virtual Meetings JAN 4, FEB 1, MAR 7 6:30pm. This is the monthly conservation meeting of the Arizona (Grand Canyon) Chapter and Palo Verde Group (Phoenix area), where we discuss a broad range of environmental issues. Come learn more about issues or bring an issue you care about and share what you know. For more information, contact Don Steuter at dsteuter@hotmail.com.

Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter Conservation and Executive Committee Virtual Meeting JAN 21, 9:00am - 4:00pm. For details and more information, contact Don Steuter at dsteuter@hotmail.com (conservation) and Oscar Medina at oscardmedinagomez@gmail.com (Executive Committee).



To sign up for the e-newsletter, send an email with your full name and membership ID (8-digit number found on your mailing label) to CanyonEchoSub@gmail.com. You will receive an email when the new issues become available online.

contd. p1: SRP Elections...

property within the votable area. If you are a renter, unfortunately you also do not get a vote even though you probably pay the electric/water bills. If you manage to meet all of the criteria to vote, then the number of votes that you get is determined by the acres of land that you own. If you own 5.25 acres, you get 5.25 votes. If you own 0.01 acres, you get 0.01 votes. What's even more undemocratic about this election is that there are Arizona Public Service Company (APS) electricity customers that are able to vote in the SRP elections even though some of SRP's own ratepayers are not eligible to vote. This really doesn't seem to be a democratic process! But in order to change the voting process we need to elect new candidates to the SRP Board of Directors and Council.

SRP's elections happen every two years. There are 10 voting areas and 4 at-large seats in the SRP district. Every other year half of the voting areas are up for re-election. In April 2024, the odd numbered districts are up for re-election. Here is a [map](#) of the voting areas so you can see if you're in an eligible district. In order to participate in the SRP elections, you can [request an early ballot](#) be sent to you in the mail so you can vote by mail. When you fill in the ballot request form make sure to select the option to be added to the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL).

Randy Miller is a Salt River Project Board member. The views expressed in this article are his individual views and opinions and are not on behalf of the SRP Board of Directors or Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District.

Thank you!

Many Thanks to our Volunteers, Members, Partners, and Supporters!

On Sunday, November 12th, Sierra Club's Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter recognized some of our wonderful volunteers, partners, and members at our annual picnic in Papago Park in Tempe.

This year, we recognized the leadership of **Vianey Olivarría** with Chispa, AZ, the lifetime achievements of both **Dale Volz** and **Jeff Jordan**, the behind the scenes work of **Stephanie Vazquez**, the conservation work of **Jim Dublinski**, the advocacy and research on rivers of **Joe Trudeau**, service projects of the **Saguaro Group**, and the work of outstanding youth with the **Westwood High School Environmental Club**. The chapter also recognized **LoriAnne Barnett** for special achievement with environmental education. **Shelly Gordon (10)**, **John Jung (25)**, and **Jim and Lynn Vaaler (50)** were recognized for their continuous membership, and Yuma Audubon Society for its partnership.

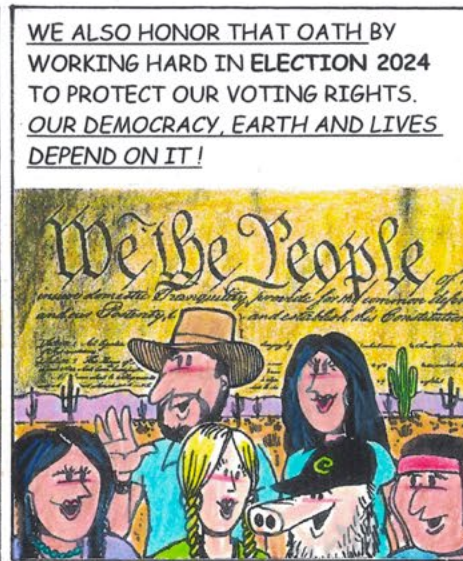
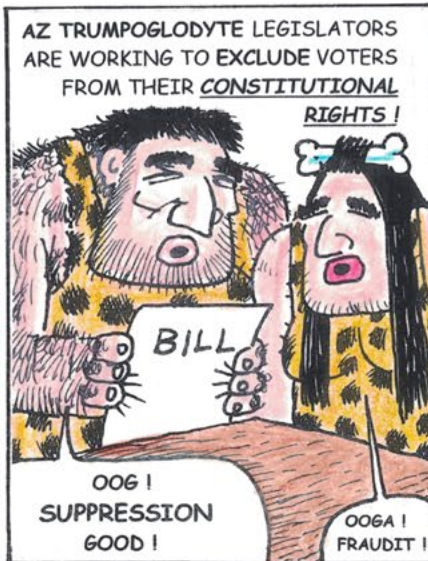
Thank you to all of these outstanding volunteers, partners, and leaders, and to all of those who were not recognized specifically this year, but who continue to contribute to making Arizona a better place for all people and the other species with which we share this beautiful piece of planet Earth.



Photos by Ana Gorla

Beyond the Slab -- CELEBRATING OVER **30 YEARS** OF PUBLISHED ECO-AWARENESS !

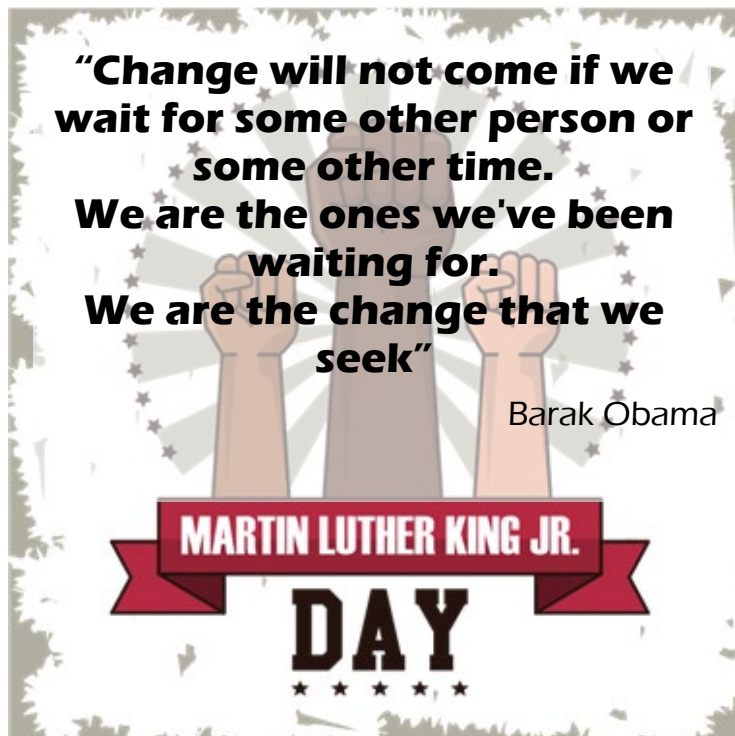
By Greg Pentkowski



Canyon etching courtesy: J.W. Powell expedition 1869-1872

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Martin Luther King day of service



Join us in celebrating the life and service of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with this day of service in the Rio Salado. We will be removing invasive plants and picking up trash. We will provide snacks and the City of Phoenix will provide the tools and trash bags. Wear comfortable closed-toe shoes, layer for cool morning temperatures, and wear a hat for sun. Bring a refillable water bottle if you have one.

Monday, January 15, 2024
8:00am - 11:00am
RSVP [Here](#)



from p1: Arizona Trends.....

ballot images available including allowing DYI audits by any individual prior to certification of election results, (Notwithstanding the claims of protecting individual information, the League is firmly opposed to the easy availability of ballot images to the public prior to official certification of the results. We strongly support the voters' right to privacy of their ballot; any such legislation is the opportunity to sow chaos in the 2024 elections.)

- allowing municipal elections to be partisan,
 - and reducing time for curing ballots, and/or drop of mail ballots.
- By the numbers:**

The state advocacy issue teams identified **299** bills of interest during the session.

Out of these bills, **103** didn't progress beyond the introduced/assigned phase.

Of the balance, **162** were reviewed and analyzed by issue team members. We provided in-person and/or written testimony on bills in approximately **60** hearings.

For a full analysis of each bill, read [Legislative Wrap 2023: Analysis and Explanation](#). By law, bills will go into effect on October 30, 90 days after Sine Die; bills containing an emergency clause go into effect immediately upon signing.

Although the Governor vetoed anti-democracy bills, the legislature was not easily thwarted and introduced these two concurrent resolutions which will be on the 2024 ballot:

HCR2033 Rep. Smith, (R) primary elections; eligible candidates.

Constitutional amendment aiming to prevent local jurisdictions from adopting different voting systems, like Ranked Choice Voting.

SCR1015 Sen. Mesnard, (R) initiative; referendum; signatures; legislative districts

Constitutional amendment requiring initiatives and referendums to be signed by 10% of voters for initiatives and 15% for constitutional amendments in EACH legislative district rather than the state as a whole.

Looking ahead to 2024, we expect ongoing efforts to replace electronic tabulation with less reliable hand counting of ballots. The Electoral Count Reform Act passed by congress in 2023 will have a significant impact on the timeline for certification of the federal races. This timeline could be used to pass legislation that negatively impacts availability of poll locations, times for polling, deadlines for turning in mail ballots, and reduction of curing times or follow up activities to cure ballots. Watch what they say and plan to do at the county level. We urge all voters to be vigilant in 2024. Know the changes in the laws from 2022, 2023 that impact your vote. Make sure you are aware of ballot referrals and initiatives that harm our democracy. As democracy defenders fight back against harmful legislation, we anticipate many more legislative referrals in 2024. Stay updated on our work through our website lwvaz.org and subscribe to our newsletters.

<https://my.lwv.org/arizona/lwvaz-positions-2023-2025>



SUBSCRIBE TO CURRENT NEWS & ACTION EMAIL ALERTS



We send two Chapter email updates per month, including upcoming events & activities, action items and more



Grand Canyon Protection Campaign email updates are sent once every other month



Borderlands email updates are sent every month



Wildlife email updates are sent once every other month



Arizona Water Sentinels email updates are sent once every other month



Energy email updates are sent once every other month



Legislative updates are sent weekly during the legislative season

<https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/sign-up-for-our-newsletters>

save water



save life

Annual Environmental Day at the Capitol!

save water



save life

by Sandy Bahr

Join us for our 35th Annual Environmental Day at the Capitol!
Save Water, Save Life.

On January 25th, 2024, Sierra Club, along with a large coalition of other organizations, will be hosting our 35th Annual Environmental Day at the Capitol. It started with a group of 30 people meeting in a room in the Arizona Senate and today we have more than 200 participants. If you have come before, we hope you will come again and consider being a team leader. If you have not participated, please come this year and learn more about the process, the people, and the issues.

For 2024, we are focusing the day on water with a theme of *Save Water, Save Life*. While we will focus on water, we will also be advocating for democracy, clean energy and addressing climate change, and more open, transparent, and welcoming processes at the Capitol. No experience is needed to participate. When you register, we will assign you to a team that includes other people from your district and each team will have a team leader to help them with the process, including getting appointments with legislators.

We will provide a light lunch and some soft drinks, as well as lots of good information and friendly faces. Leading up to Environmental Day, we will be hosting a series of webinars to inform people about the issues and the bills. You can find those and other Sierra Club events on [our calendar here](#).

Environmental Day at the Capitol

Thursday, January 25, 2024

8:30am Registration

9:00am–2:00am– Program and Meetings with Legislators

[Register here.](#)

It's important that you register ahead of time, so we can plan for food and connect you with your team. Thank you! See you at the Capitol.

Sandy Bahr is the director for the Grand Canyon Chapter.



Environmental Day 2023. Photos by Jordan Gorla

We're



watching

Salt River Project Pumped Storage Sites

by Jim Vaaler

Pumped storage electrical generation is a means by which “peaking power” for high power demand times of day can be obtained by pumping water uphill during off peak hours and then releasing it to generate power as needed, usually during late afternoon and early evening hours during summertime.

The Salt River Project held a Salt River Pumped Storage Project Stakeholder Workshop on Nov. 7th, 2023. The goal was to give the interested general public a chance to express their opinions on two proposed pump storage sites along Apache Lake. Only one site will be chosen. The upper reservoir for Pumped Storage Site number one is located in the middle of the Horse Mesa Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA). Inventoried Roadless Areas are potential wilderness areas located on Forest Service lands. Pumped Storage Site number two is located in Alchey Canyon near Theodore Roosevelt Dam.

There are three drawbacks for using Pumped Storage Site number one: A road would need to be built to the upper reservoir, transmission lines would also need to be constructed, and the north face of Horse Mesa has severe topographic challenges. Needless to say, the wilderness values present in the Horse Mesa IRA would be seriously compromised should this site be chosen. On the other hand, Pumped Storage Site number two already has an existing power line to the site as well as a



Hikers at Horse Mesa, Tonto National Forest, central Arizona, in early 1991. Photo by Tom Wright

road that follows the power line corridor. The topography should not present any serious impediments to construction. It seemed obvious to me and others that Pumped Storage Site number two should be the clear choice. From an economic standpoint it would certainly be the obvious choice. Hopefully SRP will see it the same way.

Assuming that Pumped Storage Site number two is chosen, there should not be any need to construct new

utility corridors as this project can be completed using existing corridors. The existing 230 KV line near Roosevelt Lake and the 500 KV line (option 2) southwest of Florence Junction make the most sense.



Hikers at Horse Mesa, Tonto National Forest, central Arizona, in early 1991. Photo by Tom Wright

Jim serves on the Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee and is the Wilderness Chair



Equity Trail Map

• by Cyndi Tuell

Our vision and work for our Equity Trail Map.

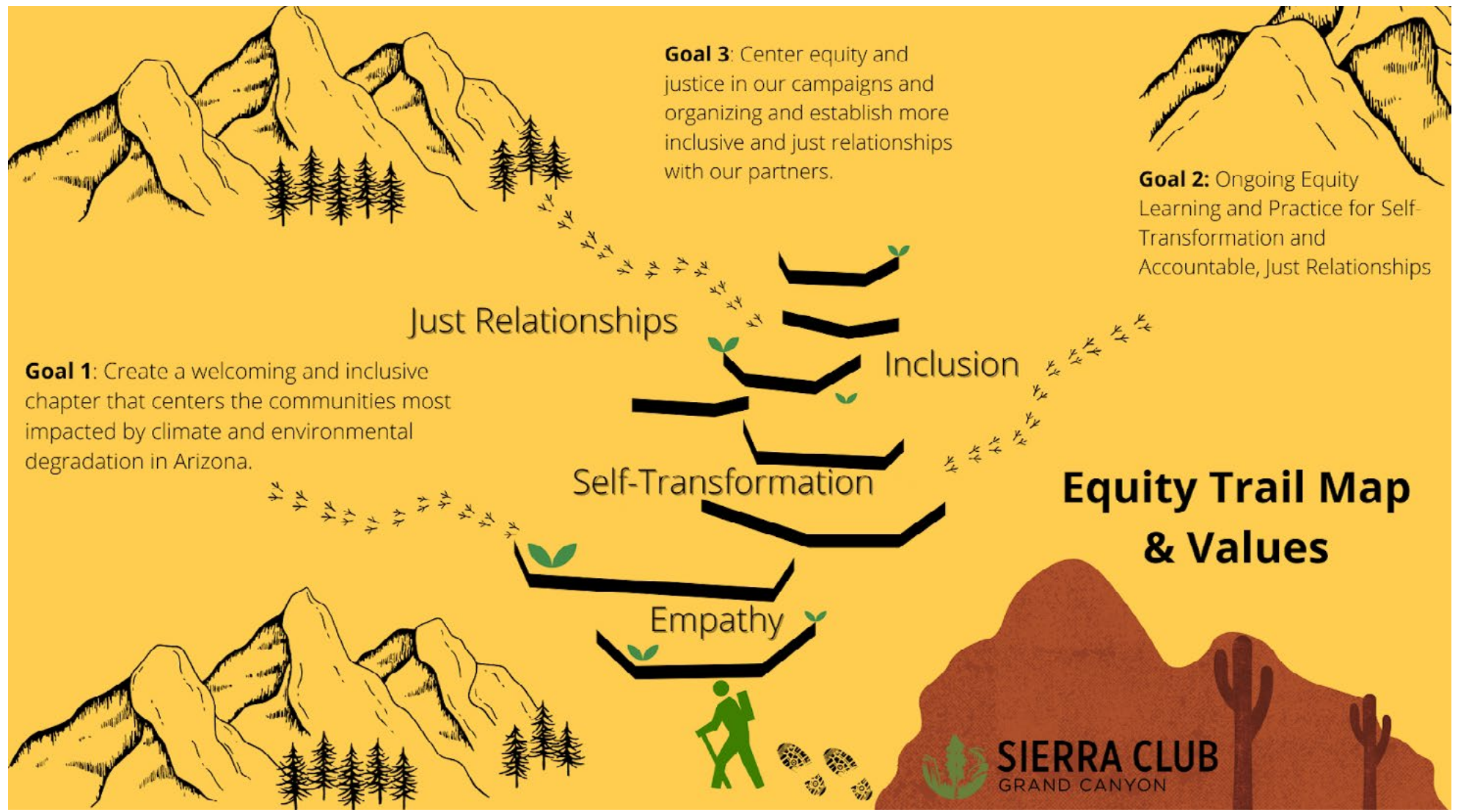
We envision a welcoming, just, equitable, and inclusive Grand Canyon Chapter. We envision a chapter where people who have been historically and perpetually excluded and marginalized from the work of Sierra Club, feel welcome, supported and represented, and hold leadership positions within the chapter. In particular we lift up young people and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in our work. We envision volunteers and staff of all backgrounds and identities working together effectively to address equity, inclusion, and justice in all aspects of our work, both internally and externally. We aim to reduce harm to the volunteers, staff, and partners who are disproportionately impacted by social- and environmental injustices. We know that we can play a pivotal role in supporting effective, collaborative campaigning, and movement building as we work towards climate justice. Our work as environmentalists is intrinsically linked to life-long learning and unlearning around systems of oppression.

The Equity Trail Map is organized around three primary goals, and under each goal are a set of projects with progress indicators (“trail markers”), timelines, and a responsible team or leader. The goals are:

- To create a welcoming and inclusive chapter that centers around the communities most impacted by climate and environmental degradation in Arizona,
- To establish ongoing equity learning and practice for self-transformation and accountable, just relationships,
- And to center equity and justice in our campaigns and organizing, and establish more inclusive and just relationships with our partners.

Why the Equity trail map is important to conservation work and to me—Cyndi Tuell

contd. p8



Latest version of the Equity Trail Map



Update

On the Trail—Learning More About Respecting the Great Bend of the Gila

• by Ana Gorla 



Great Bend of The Gila Outing at Painted Rock Petroglyph Site. Photo by Ana Gorla

On November 19th we headed to Gila Bend to learn about the history of the Painted Rock Petroglyph site and the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument from Archeology Southwest. We started our outing

by getting to know each other over some coffee and pan dulce at the picnic area of the campsite. We then went on a short and informational walk around the painted rock guided by Skylar Begay and Bill Doelle to learn about the type of rocks at

the site, the rich history behind the petroglyphs, and how this particular site is a small representation of the culture there to preserve in the proposed monument. We also learned about how much we don't know and how important it is to acknowledge that.

We headed to the second portion of our outing at an undisclosed area of the Great Bend of the Gila where Skylar led us to amazing geological formations, historic trails, geoglyphs, petroglyphs, and what seemed like untouched parts of the Sonoran Desert. It's rare to see what public lands look like when modern society doesn't have its prints all over them. It's safe to say we all appreciated our afternoon spent out on a nice sunny day with new friends. We also gained knowledge that we'll be taking with us to help spread the word on this



Great Bend of The Gila Outing. Photo by Ana Gorla

rich landscape, which needs all of our efforts to be shielded from the ongoing sprawling of our cities and other threats it faces.

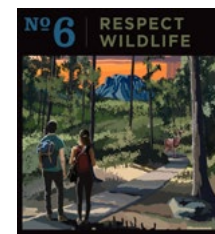
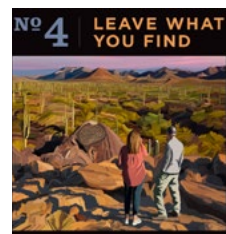
Thank you to our partners at the Respect Great Bend Coalition, Chispa, AZ, HECHO, and The Wilderness Society for making these educational and fun outings possible.

Saguaro & Ocotillo at Great Bend of The Gila Outing. Photo by Ana Gorla



You can learn more about the Respect Great Bend efforts here.

Ana is Energy and Public Lands Coordinator for Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



from. p7

The Equity Trail Map is a guiding document developed by Grand Canyon Chapter volunteers and staff over several years that grew out of the equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion work we began in 2015. This guide identifies the goals we are striving for that will help us create more just relationships and a more inclusive organization, as well as the steps we need to take to reach our goals.

I have been participating in the development and implementation of the Trail Map because I believe it is important for the conservation movement to bring as many voices together as possible to find solutions to the climate- and biodiversity crises we are facing, and to center the voices of those most impacted by these crises. We need all hands on deck as we work towards protecting our water, air, wildlife, and wildlands. The Equity Trail Map helps

us work towards creating a more welcoming environment for everyone by learning about and acknowledging the oppression and injustices of the past, finding ways to move into the future together in just relationships, developing systems that will support new members from a wide variety of backgrounds, and ensuring we center justice in all of our work. And, just as we are trying to bring more voices to the work of conservation, we also need to bring more of you to the work of implementing our Trail Map. **Please consider joining us for our regular Equity Trail Map meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm via Zoom.**

Cyndi serves on the Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee and is the Conservation Chair for the Nopales Group

Thank you!

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Hitched to Everything Else in the Universe (\$1-49)

Roger Barthelson	Sid Bucher	Dean Ellerman	Anne Jehle	Jerry McCoy	David Roberts	Anna Sublett
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The Grand Canyon Chapter is also thankful for the generous support from those who chose to remain anonymous.

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Support Your Local Sierra Club

When you make a donation to the Grand Canyon Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our efforts to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, to curb global climate change, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. If you haven't already, please also consider signing up to become a monthly, recurring donor to support local Chapter efforts!

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support the Sierra Club's citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Donate online at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/donate>
or by mail to:

Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Online Media Links

- Chapter | AZ Water Sentinels | Borderlands Campaign Grand Canyon Campaign | Flagstaff/N AZ Group Yavapai Group | Saguaro Group
- Chapter | Borderlands Campaign Grand Canyon Campaign
- Chapter | Palo Verde Group
- Chapter | Borderlands Campaign Grand Canyon Campaign | AZ Energy

Explore and Enjoy Arizona

JAN 6 (SAT) A discussion about the challenges facing Maricopa County Parks with Ranger Kevin Smith at 8:15am at The Holland Community Center, 34250 N. 60th St. #B, Scottsdale. Following the talk we will drive to Spur Cross Conservation Area to hike an easy “D” 2-3 mile trail. Spur Cross has a fee of \$3 per person. Dress for hiking and please bring water. Please sign up at <https://www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter>



Drangonfly Trail at Spur Cross Ranch. Photo by Wikimedia commons

JAN 13 (SAT) “D”. EASY Turley Trail Day Hike (< 3 miles RT, EC <200ft) The trail on the east side of Prescott starts at an old corral and goes a mile where it joins the Prescott Circle Trail in the shadow of “P” Mountain (Badger Mountain). Climb a short distance on the Circle Trail for photo ops of the “P,” or continue straight above Government Canyon until we want to turn around. The scenic trail contours the mountain with many short, steep climbs and descents. Great views of Prescott and surrounding mountains. Hike subject to weather conditions. For reservations and more information contact outings leaders Jenny Cobb cobbsrun@msn.com 928-925-1320, or Jimmy Castro jimmygordo01@gmail.com 928-499-7396. Please sign up at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>

JAN 27 (SAT) Service Project-Trail work on the Maricopa Trail at Andy Kunasek at Spear S Ranch East Linda Lane, New River, AZ at 8:30am. Bring work gloves, hat, water. Some hiking will be required. Please sign up <https://www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter>

FEB 3 (SAT) Enjoy the views and meet new friends on the Marcus Landslide Trail at Tom Thumb Trailhead 12943 E. Paraiso Dr. Scottsdale at 8:30am. We will meet at the trailhead sign just below the restrooms. “C” hike of 3-4 miles. Dress for the weather and bring water. Please sign up <https://www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter>



McDowell Mountain Preserve. Photo courtesy of Rick Cameron

Hiking Guidelines

The Sierra Club is a nationwide organization with active local outings for members and non-members. Please join us as we make friends and explore life-enriching interests. Simply find an outing by date and contact the leader for directions, reservations, time, and additional information. RESTRICTIONS: NO FIREARMS, RADIOS, OR PETS (unless noted otherwise). Outings are by reservation. Call early (group limit 20)

Each hike is rated for degree of difficulty and risk by the leader.

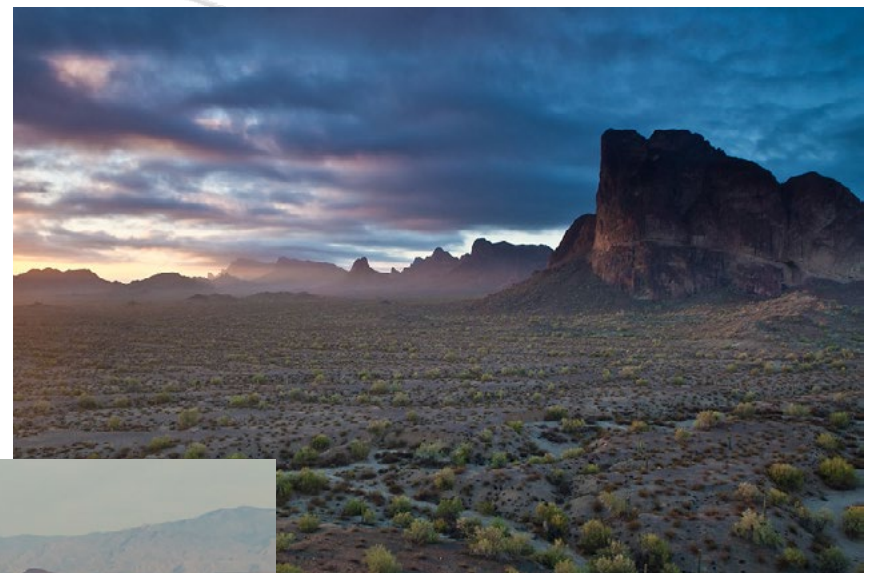
“A” >16 miles or >3,000 ft. elevation change (EC)

“B” 8–16 miles and 1,500–3,000 ft. EC RT Round Trip

“C” 3–8 miles and 500–1,500 ft. EC OW One Way

“D” <3 miles and 500 ft. EC

The trip leader has absolute authority to question trip participants as to their equipment, conditioning, and experience before and during the trip. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources> or contact the National Outings Dept. at 415-977-5528 for a printed version. Sierra Club liability covers leaders only. Each person is responsible for his/her own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately. If you leave the trip, with or without the leader’s permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Hikers are encouraged to carpool and share the driver’s fuel expense. Donations are accepted from all participants at \$1 (member) and \$3 (nonmember). Money is collected by the leader and deposited with the group treasurer. For more information, contact the Sierra Club Grand Canyon office at 602-253-8633. Hikes and outings are also listed online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



Eagle Mountain Wilderness. Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management

FEB 10 (SAT) “D” EASY Lynx Ruins Day Hike (1.5 miles RT, EC 80ft) Short interpretive trail through pinon, oak, and juniper woodland to an observation platform at a prehistoric ruin where early native Americans made their home 1150-1300 AD. Wonderful views of the surrounding forest and mountains. Hike subject to weather conditions. For reservations and more information Outings leaders Jenny Cobb cobbsrun@msn.com 928-925-1320, or Jimmy Castro jimmygordo01@gmail.com 928-499-7396. To register: <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>