

# **PUBLIC ACCESS FUNDING WINDOW**

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT Heritage Grant Public Access Proposals – Eligibility CRITERIA**

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

***PUBLIC ACCESS (ACCESS) as defined in A.R.S. § 17-296, means to provide entry to publicly held lands for recreational use where such entry is consistent with the provisions establishing those lands. Publicly held lands are those federal, public and reserved lands, State Trust Lands, and other lands within Arizona that are owned, controlled or managed by the federal government, a state agency, or political subdivision.***

The intent is to fund ACCESS projects that give the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested consistent with the eligibility criteria listed below. For **2020** there is **\$50,000** available to support ACCESS grant proposals. Grant applicants can request from **\$500** to **\$50,000** within this sub-category.

For **2020**, **priority will be given** to proposals submitted meeting **Criterion 1**: Obtain perpetual or other long-term rights-of-way to secure public access for wildlife oriented recreation where it may be jeopardized by potential land development, energy development or other land status changes, and/or **Criterion 2**: Improved angler access as defined below. **NOTE:** Research projects are not eligible for this funding source. Where appropriate and feasible, projects should be designed and constructed to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

ACCESS proposals **must meet one or more** of the **Eligibility CRITERIA** listed below:

**CRITERION 1:** Obtain perpetual or other long-term rights-of-way to secure public access for wildlife oriented recreation where it may be jeopardized by potential land development, energy development or other land status changes.

**CRITERION 2:** Projects that improve anglers' access to urban or community fishing waters, lakes with public access, streams with public access, and to other community waters used by anglers. Any project that improves angler access is allowed, including construction projects, leases, or other improvements that benefit angler access.

**CRITERION 3:** Create, maintain or enhance existing wildlife-oriented recreational access (motorized or non-motorized) onto public lands through improved design and construction methods.

**CRITERION 4:** Education and information outreach pertaining to public access in Arizona, including ethical and responsible use of private and public lands, and opportunities for volunteerism.

**CRITERION 5:** Realignment of existing access routes to protect sensitive habitat areas.

**CRITERION 6:** Create, maintain or enhance wildlife-oriented recreational access (motorized or non-motorized) onto public or State Trust lands previously inaccessible to the public.

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