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Contact: Debra Palka
(480) 727-6238
debra.palka@asu.edu

ASU to Host Conference on Open Space Issues

March 7, 2005 (Tempe, AZ) -- On April 27, 2005, Arizona State University’s School of Community Resources and Development will host the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association’s (APRA) conference, “Celebrating Open Space: Understanding the Past, Embracing the Future,” which will focus on open space issues in the Southwest.

Keynote speakers include Arizona State Land Commissioner Mark Winkleman, and Richard J. Dolesh, senior policy associate for the National Parks and Recreation Association. Topics will include the current state of open space, preserving natural areas and acquiring and managing Arizona’s open spaces. There will be training sessions and networking opportunities to discuss partnerships, acquisition, planning, research and management.

The event will provide valuable information and tools for parks and recreation professionals, land foundation staff, city managers, environmental groups, planners, developers and conservation enthusiasts.

Sponsors include Arizona State Parks, Arizona State University, the Arizona State Land Department, the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

The $65 registration fee includes continental breakfast, conference proceedings, luncheon and resource guide. Group discounts and student rates are available. Those who reserve space by April 1, 2005 will receive complimentary parking. Registration is available by calling (800) 335-PARK or online at www.azpra.org.