

The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

Stakeholder Involvement Process



Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection



Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

- **Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest**
- **Arizona League of Conservation Voters Education Fund**
- **Arizona Native Plant Society**
- **Center for Biological Diversity**
- **Center for Environmental Connections**
- **Center for Environmental Ethics**
- **Defenders of Wildlife**
- **Desert Watch**
- **Drylands Institute**
- **Environmental and Cultural Conservation Organization**
- **Environmental Law Society**
- **Friends of Cabeza Prieta**
- **Friends of Tortolita**
- **Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association**
- **Neighborhood Coalition of Greater Tucson**



Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection (cont.)

- **Northwest Neighborhood Alliance**
- **Oro Valley Neighborhood Coalition**
- **Protect Land and Neighborhoods**
- **Safford Peak Watershed Education Team**
- **Save the Scenic Santa Ritas**
- **Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter**
- **Sierra Club-Rincon Group**
- **Silverbell Mountain Alliance**
- **Sky Island Alliance**
- **Sky Island Watch**



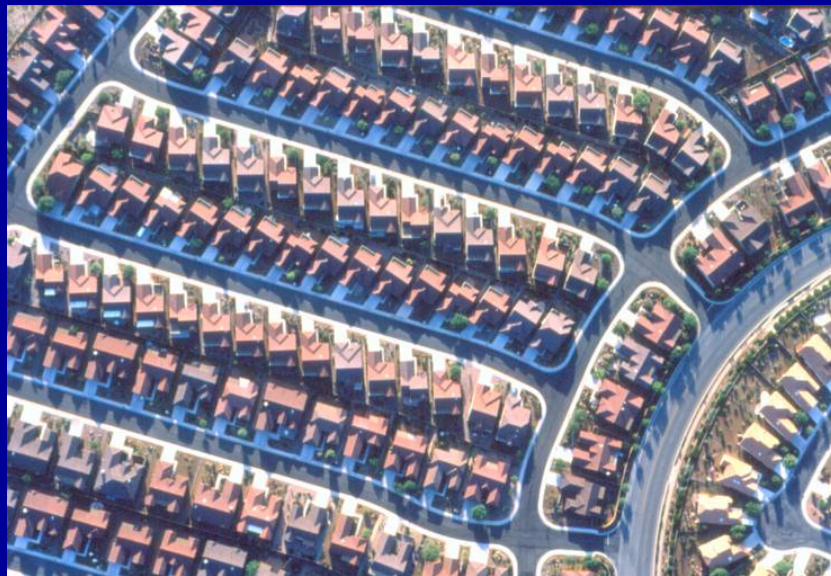
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection (cont.)

- **Society for Ecological Restoration**
- **Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute**
- **Sonoran Permaculture Guild**
- **Southwestern Biological Institute**
- **Tortolita Homeowners Association**
- **Tucson Audubon Society**
- **Tucson Herpetological Society**
- **Tucson Mountains Association**
- **The Wildlands Project**
- **Women for Sustainable Technologies**

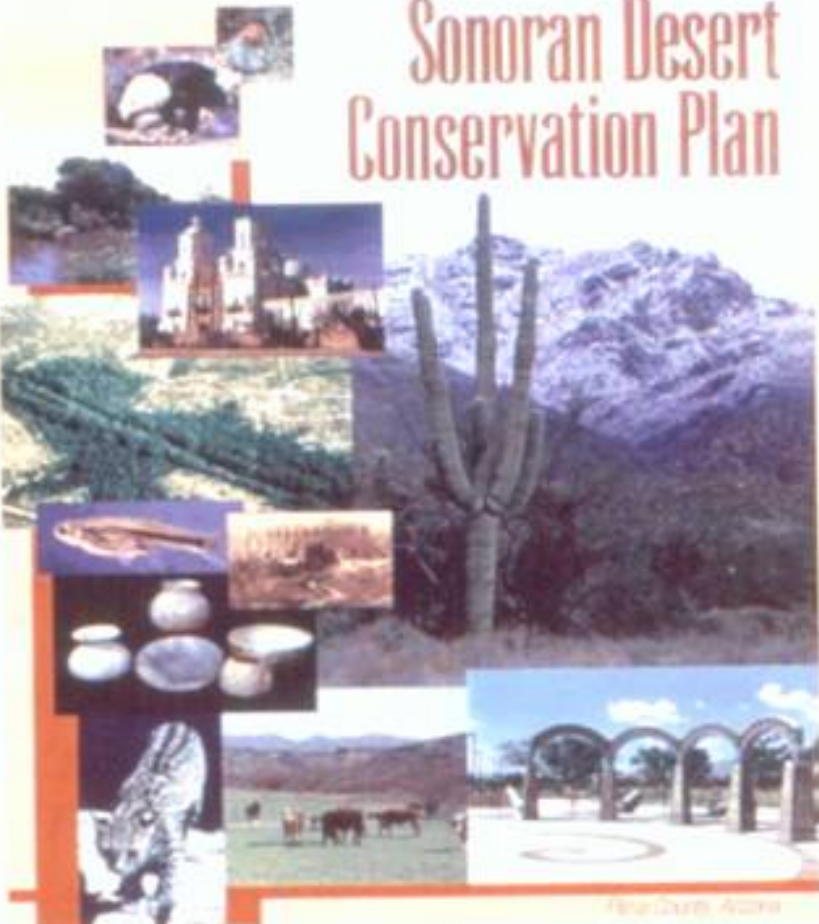
Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl



Impacts of Development



The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP)



**Sonoran Desert
Conservation Plan**

Habitat, Biological & Ecological Corridors

Ranch Conservation

Cultural & Historical Preservation

Riparian Restoration

Mountain Parks

Critical & Sensitive Habitat

Final Draft, August

The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is a comprehensive planning initiative being developed by Pima County,

“to conserve the County’s most valued natural and cultural resources, while accommodating the inevitable population growth and economic expansion of the community.”

Chuck Huckelberry

October 9, 2001 SDCP Progress Report and Update

Ecosystem Protection:

The mission of the Endangered Species Act

“To provide for the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife and plants...(and) to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species may be conserved.”

Steering Committee Background

- 86 members appointed in 1999 by Pima County Board of Supervisors
- 12 monthly educational sessions May 1999 to June 2000
- Hiatus; monthly meetings commenced May 2001 with facilitator
- Presented recommendations to Board of Supervisors June 2003

Steering Committee Membership

- Conservation
- Development
- Real Estate
- Ranching
- Neighborhood
- Homebuilding
- Private property rights
- Mining
- Trails advocates
- Others

SDCP Steering Committee Process



Organizations with Permanent SC Membership

- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
- Avra Valley / Silverbell Conservation Alliance
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Green Valley Coordinating Council
- Pima Trails Association
- Sky Island Alliance
- Sonoran Institute
- Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association
- Southern Arizona Leadership Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tucson Association of Realtors
- Tucson Chamber of Commerce
- Pima Property Rights Assoc.

Science Technical Advisory Team

- 9 appointed members- all leading biologists and natural resource experts
- Developed Conservation Lands System, or *biologically-preferred alternative preserve design*
- Preserve design and *priority vulnerable species* list adopted by Steering Committee.

The SDCP and the Comprehensive Plan



“Stated simply, there is a compatibility of natural and built environment planning that is the essence of rational and meaningful planning.”

Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update, October 2001

Steering Committee Recommendations

- Plan duration and scope
- Covered species
- Essential elements (conserved lands, land use regulations, independent review, assured funding)
- Incentives
- Establishment of benchmarks
- Funding sources
- Adaptive management

Lessons Learned

Democracy is messy!