

Cultural and Historic Resource Acquisitions



Hohokam Petroglyphs

Coyote Mountains Archaeological Complex: Old Hayhook Ranch

Site: 839 acres

Cost: \$1,409,786

Acquired: February 2005

Fund: 2004 Bond Funds

Grant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Background

Old Hayhook Ranch, located at the base of the Coyote Mountains in Altar Valley, is comprised of a number of old homestead claims and associated ranchlands located adjacent to Coyote Wilderness BLM Reserve and the Tohono O'odham Nation. Three parcels of the Old Hayhook Ranch were purchased by Pima County in 2005 from a private landowner for its outstanding natural and cultural resources. It was determined to have high habitat value for more than 20 vulnerable species, and the land includes a complex of Hohokam villages considered ancestral sites by the Tohono O'odham. The 839 acre parcel was consequently designated a high priority conservation area for acquisition to preserve these values. Historic Preservation bonds and a Recovery Land Acquisition Grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service funded the acquisition.



Coyote Mountains. Photo by Kerry Baldwin

Historical and Cultural Resources

The Coyote Mountain Archaeological complex consists of 39 sites situated in the bajada/lower mountain environments on the west side of the Altar Valley, approximately 35 miles southwest of Tucson. Settled since Archaic times, the bulk of the prehistoric occupation dates to the Hohokam Sedentary (A.D. 1100-1150) and Classic periods (A.D. 1150-1450).

During Classic times, the Hohokam community appears to have centered on a number of large habitation sites with compound walls and platform mounds. Additional sites include non-compound settlements, farmsteads, agricultural fields, rock art sites, and special activity sites. Together these sites represent an ancestral site complex of the Tohono O'odham Nation and reflect an intact cultural landscape of Hohokam settlement and land use.

Management

This land is managed to protect its exceptional habitat and cultural values in perpetuity for the recovery of vulnerable species and to preserve in place the Coyote Mountains archaeological complex.

Value to the Community

Preservation of the Coyote Mountains Archaeological Complex at Old Hayhook Ranch serves the greater community broadly by preserving exceptional natural habitat and a unique cultural landscape and ancestral village complex of the Tohono O'odham.



Old Hayhook Ranch. Photo by Kerry Baldwin