

## Floodprone Land Acquisition Program (FLAP) Property Highlights



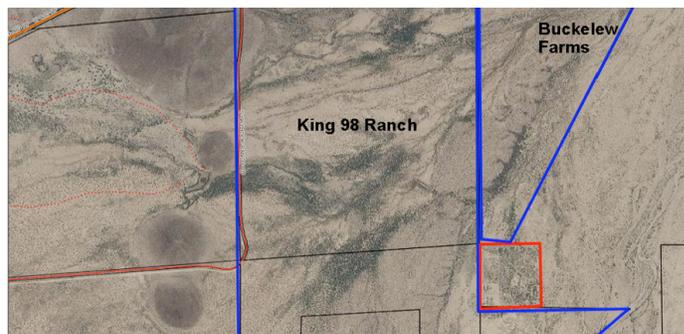
3-acre FLAP acquired parcel, the Marco property, (red) expands a number of conserved properties along Sabino Creek and Bear Canyon.

## Floodprone Land Acquisition: Purchases that Expand Existing Conservation Areas

The Regional Flood Control District has been able to expand existing conservation areas by using the Floodprone Land Acquisition Program (FLAP). These include expansions to the Buckelew and King 98 ranch lands, expansion of Rancho Seco, additional lands acquired in the Berry Acres area in Marana, and the expansion of conserved lands along Sabino Creek and south of Bear Canyon Road.

### Buckelew and King 98 Ranch Expansions

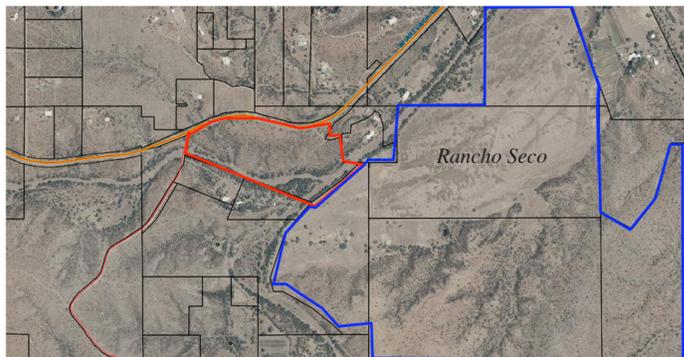
The Regional Flood Control District acquired 500 acres in Altar Valley from the Buckelew family in 2002, under the FLAP program. Pima County acquired the 4,500-acre King 98 Ranch in Altar Valley in 2005 under the 2004 Conservation Acquisition Bond Program. In 2009, an additional 40-acre parcel immediately north of the King 98 Ranch and immediately south of the Buckelew lands, including two wells, was purchased under the FLAP program. The water rights on all three of these properties may provide the opportunity in the future to restore a stretch of the Altar and South Mendoza washes that cross the properties. The properties are all within the Multiple Use and Special Species Management Areas of the Conservation Lands System, and contain portions of Important Riparian Areas. The properties support habitat for the California leaf-nosed bat, Swainson's hawk, and Tumamoc Globeberry. Portions of the properties may provide habitat for the dispersal of young Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls as well. Endangered Pima pineapple cacti have been found on the King 98 Ranch and are likely to be found on FLAP properties as well.



40-acre FLAP-acquired parcel (red) expands on both the County acquired King 98 Ranch and Buckelew Farms properties.

### Rancho Seco Expansion

In 2005, with funds from the 2004 Conservation Acquisition Bond Program, the County purchased the 37,000-acre Rancho Seco in the Altar and Upper Santa Cruz Valleys near the town of Arivaca. Subsequently, an owner of a 30-acre ranch property with frontage on Arivaca Road, located immediately adjacent to Rancho Seco and containing a reach of the Sopori Wash, contacted the Regional Flood Control District. The owner had been contacted by several parties interested in her land for development, but instead she chose to sell it to the District in 2008 for conservation. The property is within the Biological Core Management Area of the Conservation Lands System, and contains a portion of Sopori Wash, which is an Important Riparian Area. This property expands upon many conservation areas within this region, including two County-owned ranches, the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, and the Coronado National Forest. Together these lands protect an important wildlife corridor.



30-acre FLAP-acquired parcel (red) that expands on the County-acquired Rancho Seco



The County's Rancho Seco property that was later expanded by a 30-acre FLAP purchase. Photo by Diana Freshwater ALWT.

## Berry Acres Expansion

Several parcels along the Santa Cruz River in an area of Marana known as Berry Acres were acquired by the Flood Control District following the devastating flood of 1983. Over the past 6 years, the District has been able to purchase an additional seven developed properties in Berry Acres for a total cost of \$723,000, returning these properties to their natural floodplain function.



A javelina footprint on one of the Berry Acres properties. Photo by Dana Luton.



One of the properties purchased in the Berry Acres area of Marana. Photo by Dana Luton.

## Sabino Creek and Bear Canyon Expansion

In 2007, through the FLAP program, the District acquired the 3-acre Marco property along Sabino Creek. The property originally contained a house, which was flooded in 2006 and has since been demolished. This purchase expands upon other land owned by the District, The Nature Conservancy, and the Coronado National Forest, along Sabino Creek and Bear Creek, south of Bear Canyon Road. The property is within the Important Riparian Area category of the Conservation Lands System. Conservation of properties along these creeks protects rare riparian habitat and perennial streams, as well as habitat for Priority Vulnerable Species such as the Bell's vireo and western yellow bat.



Location of the former house on the Marco property. Photo by Dana Luton.



A portion of the Sabino Creek crossed the Marco property. Photo by Dana Luton.

