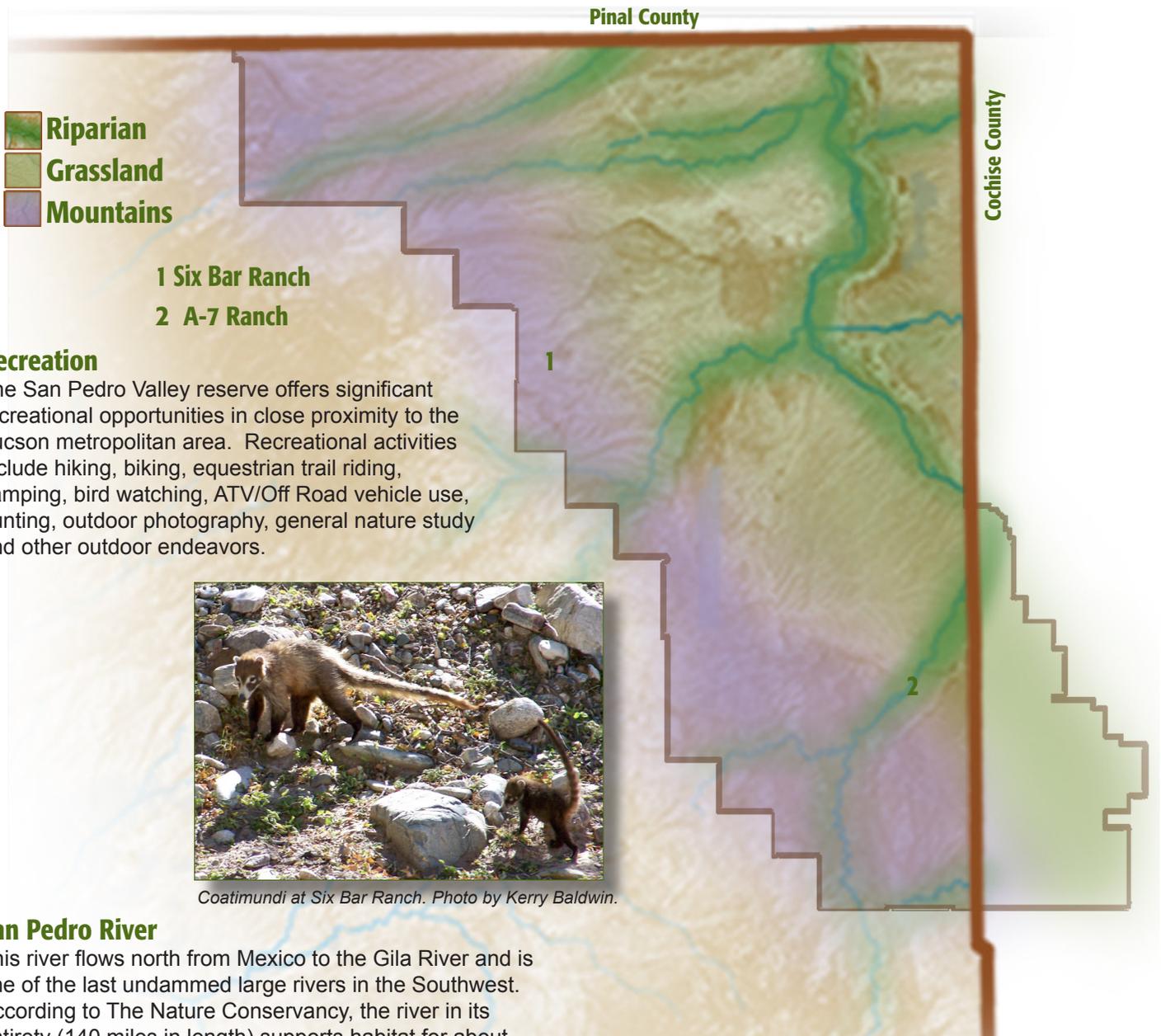


# San Pedro Valley Reserve



- Riparian
- Grassland
- Mountains

- 1 Six Bar Ranch
- 2 A-7 Ranch

## Recreation

The San Pedro Valley reserve offers significant recreational opportunities in close proximity to the Tucson metropolitan area. Recreational activities include hiking, biking, equestrian trail riding, camping, bird watching, ATV/Off Road vehicle use, hunting, outdoor photography, general nature study and other outdoor endeavors.



Coatimundi at Six Bar Ranch. Photo by Kerry Baldwin.

## San Pedro River

This river flows north from Mexico to the Gila River and is one of the last undammed large rivers in the Southwest. According to The Nature Conservancy, the river in its entirety (140 miles in length) supports habitat for about 350 bird species and stopover habitat for up to 4 million birds migrating each year between North, Central and South America.



Photo by Henry Wallace, ALWT



Butterfly at Six Bar Ranch. Photo by Brian Powell



Reeve Ruin - Adapted from National Science Foundation online publication, "Archaeology from Reel to Real, a Special Report,": July 10, 2010

### Cultural and Archaeological Resources

The San Pedro River Valley was an important historical crossroads of the Southwest from early prehistoric times to the historic era when the 1540 Coronado Expedition traveled through the San Pedro River corridor. Archaeological sites in the river valley represent the remains of human occupation from 13,000 years ago. The Lehner Mammoth Kill Site in the upper San Pedro River valley provides some of the first conclusive evidence of human hunting of mammoths in North America. This is also the site of the significant Reeve Ruin, located on the terrace overlooking the San Pedro River, dating back to A.D. 1200-1450



Bingham Cienega Natural Preserve. Photo by Priscilla Titus

### Bingham Cienega Natural Preserve

In 1989, the Pima County Regional Flood Control District acquired 285 acres of land along the San Pedro River to preserve a spring-fed marsh known as Bingham Cienega. Because of the site's remote location and sensitive environment, the District entered into a long-term agreement with The Nature Conservancy to manage the property. Historically used for ranching and farming, the fallow fields began to be restored by Conservancy volunteers and marsh wetlands, mesquite bosques and riparian forests began to reclaim the land. The Conservancy has also restored sacaton and other native floodplain vegetation to the area.



Edgar Canyon in Six Bar Ranch with the Catalina Mountains in the background. Photo by Brian Powell.

The San Pedro Valley Reserve is located in the northeastern corner of Pima County, east of the Catalina Mountains, and encompasses a segment of the San Pedro River, one of the last free-flowing rivers in the Southwest. The river and its tributaries support riparian vegetation and intermittent stream flow providing habitat for species such as the Southwest willow flycatcher and the Giant spotted whiptail lizard. The upland semi-desert grasslands and woodlands provide habitat for species such as the Lesser Long-nosed bat and Desert box turtle. Archaeological findings suggest that the river valley has been occupied by humans for nearly 13,000 years. More recently its history has been dominated by ranching and agricultural efforts in support of ranching. Overtime, the ranches in this area have grown larger in an attempt to maintain profitability and weather the less than optimum range conditions due to continued drought and changing climate patterns. Free range grazing in this location is often supplemented with irrigated pastures adjacent to the river. Both Pima County and the Nature Conservancy have been active in purchasing and managing land in this reserve, conserving wildlife, river habitat, and archeological sites.

