

Northern Altar Valley Reserve



Photo by Nick Buckelew

Buckelew Farm Pumpkin Festival and Corn Maze

For 21 years a popular community pumpkin festival has been held at Buckelew Farm.



Controlled fire - Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center

- 1 Buckelew Farm
- 2 King 98 Ranch
- 3 Diamond Bell Ranch

-  Riparian
-  Grassland
-  Mountains

County Partners

The County is fortunate to be working with local agencies in addressing various shared issues in the area. Partners include the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, the Bureau of Land Management, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and Tucson Water.

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance was established to bring together large private landowners and the natural resource agencies to better coordinate conservation efforts from a valley wide perspective. One of the more active and successful groups of its kind in the nation, the Alliance has a number of ongoing projects, including reintroducing fire to the grassland system and restoration of overall watershed health among others. As one of the larger landowners in the Valley, the County is an active member of the Alliance.





King 98 Ranch. Photo by Kerry Baldwin

Watershed and Riparian Restoration Opportunities

Opportunities exist to work with the numerous agencies and private landowners to restore the biological integrity and natural floodplain functions of the Brawley Wash and its associated watersheds. Restoration of a watershed can begin on a small scale. New trends in low-tech localized restoration are being utilized by the County on the open space lands.



The Northern Altar Valley Reserve is located southwest of metro Tucson, along the Ajo and Sasabe Highways. The Altar Wash, which becomes the Brawley Wash, runs north through the Reserve to merge with the Santa Cruz River near Marana. The dominant land use is livestock grazing, with a small amount of active farming, and some urban development within the Diamond Bell subdivision and along Ajo Highway at Robles Junction (Three Points). The area was once part of the historic Robles Ranch, one of the largest in southern Arizona. The landscape includes areas of retired farmland along the Wash complexes. This area, along with southern Altar Valley, encompassed Pima County's largest and most intact semi-desert grassland valley. The grasslands have been degraded over time due to climate changes and land uses but still provide habitat for a variety of species of concern like the Swainson's hawk, and the endangered Pima Pineapple cactus.

