

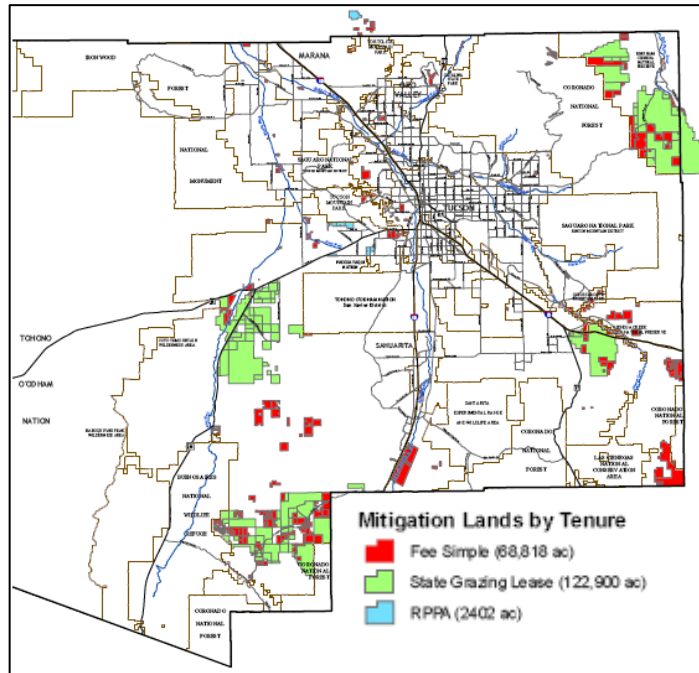
Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Newsletter

“To ensure the long-term survival of the full spectrum of plants and animals that are indigenous to Pima County through maintaining or improving the ecosystem structures and functions necessary for their survival.”

September 2009

MSCP Update

The report, [Pima County Mitigation Lands](#), describes Pima County’s advance efforts to secure land for mitigation for the Section 10 permit, why these lands are different from other open space land, and how these lands meet the federal requirements towards Multi-Species Conservation Plans. Pima County has acquired over 60,000 acres of private lands to mitigate for impacts that are likely to occur in the next 30 years, and manages over 120,000 acres of State Trust Land.



Monitoring Program

The Pima County Ecological Monitoring Program (PCEMP) is being developed to address the needs of the forthcoming Section 10 permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The PCEMP is being developed to determine if the conservation measures provided in the MSCP are sufficient to conserve species and their habitats. Thanks to a planning grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pima County staff, Dr. Bob Steidl (University of Arizona), and Dr. Andrea Litt (Texas A&M University-Kingsville) have developed a new process for choosing habitat-based measures for inclusion into broad scale monitoring programs, such as that being developed for the PCEMP. The final results of this work will be released in a report this winter, at which time the general public and scientific community will have a chance to comment on it.



Land Management

Pima County is actively working with a multi-agency team to develop a Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the Sands ranch east of Sonoita. The county acquired part of the larger Sands ranch as part of the Open Space acquisition program. The county is participating to ensure conservation values are retained on the property and that management efforts are consistent with a broader regional perspective that includes management on the Coronado National Forest and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Contact Kerry Baldwin at Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation for more information (877-6000).



Sands Ranch. Credit Barb Garrison, EPG.

Species Updates

Pima County has been supporting a biorecognition of the Tucson Mountains for Mt. Lions by a team of the University of Arizona. Remote cameras are set up across the park and have confirmed the presence of at least one lion. Images of some of the wildlife captured by the cameras can be viewed on the Tucson Mountain Park page on the NRPR web site at <http://www.pima.gov/nrpr/parks/tmp/index.htm>.



Mountain lion caught on camera.
Photograph by U of AZ Wild Cat Research

Environmental Education

Looking for an outdoor adventure? Join us for a hike in some of the area's gems (please visit <http://www.pima.gov/nrpr/eeduc/outreach/outabout.htm> for fee and reservation information).

Brown Canyon Botany Hike

Join esteemed local ethnobotanist Dan Austin for a day-long hike through Brown Canyon in the Baboquivari Mountains, a location known for its rich biodiversity. The hike will be 3 to 4 total miles, with some moderately steep areas. Registered participants will car pool from a designated area.
Friday, October 9, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Butterflies of Honeybee Canyon

Local naturalist Jeff Babson will lead a 2 to 3 mile easy hike through Honeybee Canyon in the Tortolita Mountains. He will identify local butterflies along the way and discuss their ecology and life histories.
Friday, October 23, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Wild Burro Canyon Hike

Enjoy an easy to moderate, 4 to 5 mile hike in the Tortolita Mountains with Pima County naturalist Meg Quinn. The trail begins in a large wash filled with ancient ironwood trees and then climbs along a craggy, saguaro-studded hillside with stunning vistas.
Friday, November 13, 9:00 a.m. – noon

