

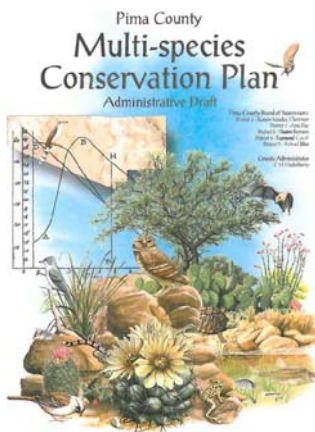
# Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Newsletter



*“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.”*

## December 2010

### Pima County MSCP Application to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



In early December, after 11 years of planning, Pima County submitted an [Administrative Draft of the Multi-Species Conservation Plan](#) and associated documents (Environmental Impact Statement and Implementing Agreement) for administrative review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Once the review is complete, there will be a formal public comment period. The entire federal review process is expected to take at least a year to complete. Prior to the formal comment period, Pima County is accepting comments on the MSCP, which can be directed to Neva Connolly, 201 N. Stone Ave., 6th floor, Tucson, AZ 85701; or emailed to: [Neva.Connolly@pima.gov](mailto:Neva.Connolly@pima.gov).

### CAKE Case Study

The Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) project is a virtual library and knowledge base for information on managing natural systems in a changing climate. The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is featured as a CAKE [case study](#). Although climate change was a minor part of the SDCP planning process, key conservation themes and targets that play such a crucial role in the climate change adaptation conversation (e.g., connectivity, representativeness, and refugia) were critical components of Pima County's plan.

### Pima County Drought Management Website

In 2003, the Pima County Board of Supervisors declared a State of Emergency due to drought conditions. Since then, the BOS adopted a [Drought Response Plan and Water Wasting Ordinance](#) (2006) to establish methods and procedures to ensure that water resources available to Pima County residents are put to maximum beneficial use in times of emergency shortage. For more information of local drought status, water conservation, and climate change programs, please visit the [Pima County Drought Management](#) website.

### Bird Lists

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation have made available [bird lists](#) for Agua Caliente Park, Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, and Tucson Mountain Park. Scope out the species rich habitats of Pima County's birding hot spots. These birding destinations offer seasonal specialties and reliable Sonoran Desert birds that thrive in the saguaro forests of Tucson Mountain Park and the lush riparian habitats at Cienega Creek Preserve and Agua Caliente Park.



## New on MapGuide

New, very high resolution (4-inch) imagery is now available for portions of Pima County, including Ajo and the Rosemont area on Mapguide and the SDCP Mapguide systems. The imagery is labeled Spring 2010 Pictometry, and will support viewing oblique imagery and measurement of height as well as distance.

Wildlife linkages in Pima County are now posted on the SDCP Mapguide site at <http://gis.pima.gov/maps/sdcp/> as translucent polygons, to facilitate overlays with other information. This information is derived from ADOT and [www.corridordesign.org](http://www.corridordesign.org) and covers both eastern and western Pima County.

## Upcoming Presentations

Julia Fonseca will be presenting, "Mediators of Climate Change in the Sky Island Region-People, Place and History," at the School of Renewable Natural Resources and the Environment as part of the SNRE Speaker Series. The presentation will discuss why place, time, and people can magnify or reduce the predicted effects of climate change, and how our region can consider these factors in a more nuanced way than is afforded by regional and global models. Date: Friday, February 4, 12:00-1:00 pm at the Biosciences East 225.

## Wildlife Crossing Structures in Marana

Mule deer have been given two 12-foot high, 20-foot wide, 172-foot long culverts to safely cross beneath the new Twin Peaks Road, helping the animals find their way along the fan of the Tortolita Mountains. The Regional Transportation Authority has provided funding for wildlife enhancement on the roadway, which includes the two culverts sized for muledeer, 3 culverts designed for smaller animals, fencing along the roadway intended to keep wildlife off the road and to funnel the larger animals towards the intended crossings. The RTA funding also includes post-construction monitoring, to track and verify what animals are crossing where. For more information, please view this [article](#).

## City County Intergovernmental Agreement

The City of Tucson and Pima County have signed an agreement which defines administration of effluent and reclaimed water available in the Conservation Effluent Pool (CEP). The CEP was established in 2000 with the help of then Secretary of State Bruce Babbitt to assist the region's riparian restoration goals with the dedication of up to 10,000 acre-feet of effluent for riparian projects. While the CEP was established over 10 years ago, no effluent from the CEP has been used for riparian projects as the details to implement the CEP had not been finalized. The necessary implementation details were signed by both parties January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Riparian restoration can now apply to receive water from the CEP. For more details, see the [here](#) (item 8, supporting documents).

