



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

December 12, 2000

Cooperative Agreements with the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District; Bureau of Reclamation; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; and United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Background

On September 26, 2000, the Board approved the following as part of the motion to accept the *Draft Preliminary Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan*:

"Authorize Cooperative Planning Agreements - The Chair of the Board would be authorized to sign and execute cooperative agreements regarding the planning process necessary to transform the draft preliminary Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan into a final Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, including full participation in developing the: A) regional multi-species conservation plan, B) environmental impact statement, C) adaptive management plan, and, finally, D) implementing agreement."

Last week the Board approved a cooperative planning strategy between Pima County and the United States Forest Service. The attached documents reflect similar commitments between Pima County and the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District; Bureau of Reclamation; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; and United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Recommendation

To further advance the process of developing the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and conservation planning efforts throughout Pima County, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors agree to cooperative planning with the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District; Bureau of Reclamation; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; and United States Fish and Wildlife Service as outlined in the attached Memoranda.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF
THE SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN**
between
the METROPOLITAN DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
and
PIMA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan has multiple elements including the protection of cultural resources and historic resources as well as natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the enhancement of the natural resource base in urban areas such as the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District (MDWID) is important to the overall success of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 1999, the Pima County Board of Supervisors committed to preserving and protecting the Sonoran Desert through the adoption of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan in concept; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan seeks to protect and preserve cultural, historic and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan to be truly comprehensive and meaningfully conserve the resources important to the Citizens of Pima County, a cooperative and collaborative effort is needed between Pima County and MDWID.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AND MDWID WILL SEEK TO COLLABORATE AND COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING AND ESTABLISHING THE SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN, AS FOLLOWS:

- I. Pima County and MDWID share a cooperative intent to develop and implement the goals and objectives of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, and provide a framework for cooperation among the Parties.
- II. Pima County acknowledges and desires the full participation of MDWID in developing the final Sonoran Desert Conservation Program. Pima County and MDWID will work with the Steering Committee for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, interested members of the public, consultants, members of technical committees, and participating jurisdictions and government agencies during the process to discuss, develop and implement meaningful conservation standards as part of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. Actions may include but not be limited to:
 - A. Pima County will provide a copy of all reports prepared for or produced through the Sonoran Desert Conservation Planning process.
 - B. MDWID will appoint a member of staff to participate with Pima County in developing the Plan. MDWID may comment on any aspect or any written report prepared for the Plan. Comments made in writing will be addressed by Pima County.

- C. Any written comments and/or reports related to the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan produced by MDWID will be made available to Pima County.
 - D. MDWID and Pima County each agree to appoint a staff member to a governmental working group. Said group will meet monthly to advance a cooperative planning process for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.
 - E. The decision-making process regarding the Conservation Plan will be by consensus.
 - F. Pima County acknowledges and desires the full participation of MDWID in developing the final Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.
- III. Pima County and MDWID will work cooperatively to design and implement a conservation plan that:
- A. Complies with federal requirements under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.
 - B. Addresses species conservation and federal compliance issues through the development of six planning elements, including Habitat and Corridor Protection; Riparian Protection and Restoration; Mountain Park Expansion; Ranch Conservation; and Cultural and Historic Preservation.
 - C. Ensures the long-term survival of the full spectrum of plants and animals that are indigenous to Pima County through maintaining or improving the habitat conditions and ecosystem functions necessary for their survival. Inherent within this broad goal are several objectives:
 1. Promote recovery of federally listed and candidate species.
 2. Where feasible and appropriate, re-introduce and recover species that have been extirpated from this region.
 3. Maintain or improve the status of unlisted species whose existence in Pima County is vulnerable.
 4. Identify biological threats to the region's biodiversity posed by introduced and nonnative species of plants and animals, and develop strategies to reduce these threats and avoid additional invasive species in the future.
 5. Identify causes that disrupt ecosystem functions within target plant communities selected for their biological significance, and develop strategies to reverse or mitigate them.

6. Promote long-term viability and mitigate for impacts to species, environments and biotic communities that have special significance to people in this region because of their aesthetic or cultural values, regional uniqueness, or economic significance.
- D. Facilitates the preservation of cultural and historical resources.
 - E. Recognizes how sustainable ranching can facilitate healthy and diverse ecosystems, open space conservation, the preservation of historic, traditional, and current land uses.
 - F. Facilitates water conservation strategies, including recharge projects that can both effect riparian habitat restoration and facilitate aquifer recharge to mitigate regional groundwater level declines.
 - G. Identifies future water utility infrastructure needs, and means to ensure that such infrastructure, including water transmission lines and storage reservoirs, will be designed in a manner that will advance the goals of habitat protection and conservation.
 - H. Ensures the long-term fiscal viability of the land base, upholds property rights, and addresses quality of life issues for citizens.
 - I. Seeks sufficiently broad and predictable regulatory assurances in order to achieve conservation goals while meeting economic needs of the community.
 - J. Standardizes and integrates to the extent possible regulatory procedures and requirements, to ensure inter-jurisdictional consistency and reduce delay in permitting programs.
 - K. Provides a mechanism to reduce to the extent possible the cumulative effects of land use on species of concern.
 - L. Provides a basis for possible revisions and for amendments to federal land-use planning documents to achieve regional consistency in conservation planning and implementation.
 - M. Facilitates effective long-range intergovernmental research efforts, data and information sharing, and the development of adaptive management strategies.
- IV. Pima County and MDWID recognize that any action is subject to all applicable federal and state laws.
- V. Pima County and MDWID anticipate this working arrangement to continue until negotiations and consultations under Section 10 and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act are completed, local and federal programs are defined, and permits are issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, unless and until the Parties amend this Agreement, or a Party to the Agreement withdraws from participation in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and memorializes that intent to withdraw in writing.

SIGNED THIS _____ day of _____, 2000.

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**METROPOLITAN DOMESTIC WATER
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Sharon Bronson, Chair

Pete Schlegel, Chair

ATTEST

ATTEST

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

General Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Deputy County Attorney

Attorney

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO DEVELOP
THE SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN**
between
the BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
and
PIMA COUNTY

I. Parties:

This Memorandum of Understanding is made as of _____ 2000, between Pima County and Bureau of Reclamation, hereinafter referred to as "Parties" to the Memorandum of Understanding.

II. Purpose:

This Memorandum of Understanding is written to reflect the cooperative intent of the Parties to develop the goals and objectives of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, and provide a framework for cooperation among the Parties.

III. Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the participating Parties to work with the Steering Committee, interested members of the public, consultants, members of technical committees, and participating jurisdictions and government agencies during the process to discuss and develop meaningful conservation standards as part of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

IV. Goals and Objectives:

Under this Memorandum of Understanding the Parties will work cooperatively to design a conservation plan that:

- A. Complies with federal requirements under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.
- B. Addresses species conservation and federal compliance issues through the development of six planning elements, including Habitat and Corridor Protection; Riparian Protection and Restoration; Mountain Park Expansion; Ranch Conservation; and Cultural and Historic Preservation.
- C. Ensures the long-term survival of the full spectrum of plants and animals that are indigenous to Pima County through maintaining or improving the habitat conditions and ecosystem functions necessary for their survival. Inherent within this broad goal are several objectives:

1. Promote recovery of federally listed and candidate species.
 2. Where feasible and appropriate, re-introduce and recover species that have been extirpated from this region.
 3. Maintain or improve the status of unlisted species whose existence in Pima County is vulnerable.
 4. Identify biological threats to the region's biodiversity posed by introduced and nonnative species of plants and animals, and develop strategies to reduce these threats and avoid additional invasive species in the future.
 5. Identify causes that disrupt ecosystem functions within target plant communities selected for their biological significance, and develop strategies to reverse or mitigate them.
 6. Promote long-term viability and mitigate for impacts to species, environments and biotic communities that have special significance to people in this region because of their aesthetic or cultural values, regional uniqueness, or economic significance.
- D. Facilitates the preservation of cultural and historical resources.
- E. Recognizes how sustainable ranching can facilitate healthy and diverse ecosystems, open space conservation, the preservation of historic, traditional, and current land uses.
- F. Ensures the long-term fiscal viability of the land base, upholds property rights, and addresses quality of life issues for citizens.
- G. Seeks sufficiently broad and predictable regulatory assurances in order to achieve conservation goals while meeting economic needs of the community.
- H. Standardizes and integrates to the extent possible regulatory procedures and requirements, to ensure inter-jurisdictional consistency and reduce delay in permitting programs.
- I. Provides a mechanism to avoid, minimize, mitigate, and / or reduce to the extent possible the cumulative effects of land use on species of concern.
- J. Provides a basis for possible revisions and for amendments to federal land-use planning documents to achieve regional consistency in conservation planning and implementation.
- K. Facilitates effective long-range intergovernmental research efforts, data and information sharing, and the development of adaptive management strategies.

L. For the Parties, this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to all applicable federal and state laws, and nothing herein shall be construed to alter, amend, or affect existing law.

V. Term

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of signature until negotiations and consultations under Section 10 and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act are completed, local and federal programs are defined, and permits are issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, unless and until the Parties amend this Agreement, or a Party to the Agreement withdraws from participation in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and memorializes that intent to withdraw in writing.

SIGNED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2000.

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Sharon Bronson, Chair

ATTEST

ATTEST

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Deputy County Attorney

Attorney

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO DEVELOP
THE SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN**

between

the BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

and

PIMA COUNTY

I. Parties:

This Memorandum of Understanding is made as of _____ 2000, between Pima County and Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as "Parties" to the Memorandum of Understanding.

II. Purpose:

This Memorandum of Understanding is written to reflect the cooperative intent of the Parties to develop the goals and objectives of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, and provide a framework for cooperation among the Parties.

III. Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the participating Parties to work with the Steering Committee, interested members of the public, consultants, members of technical committees, and participating jurisdictions and government agencies during the process to discuss and develop meaningful conservation standards as part of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

IV. Goals and Objectives:

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- A. Complies with federal requirements under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.
- B. Addresses species conservation and federal compliance issues through the development of six planning elements, including Habitat and Corridor Protection; Riparian Protection and Restoration; Mountain Park Expansion; Ranch Conservation; and Cultural and Historic Preservation.
- C. Ensures the long-term survival of the full spectrum of plants and animals that are indigenous to Pima County through maintaining or improving the habitat conditions and ecosystem functions necessary for their survival. Inherent within this broad goal are several objectives:

1. Promote recovery of federally listed and candidate species.
 2. Where feasible and appropriate, re-introduce and recover species that have been extirpated from this region.
 3. Maintain or improve the status of unlisted species whose existence in Pima County is vulnerable.
 4. Identify biological threats to the region's biodiversity posed by introduced and nonnative species of plants and animals, and develop strategies to reduce these threats and avoid additional invasive species in the future.
 5. Identify causes that disrupt ecosystem functions within target plant communities selected for their biological significance, and develop strategies to reverse or mitigate them.
 6. Promote long-term viability and mitigate for impacts to species, environments and biotic communities that have special significance to people in this region because of their aesthetic or cultural values, regional uniqueness, or economic significance.
- D. Facilitates the preservation of cultural and historical resources.
 - E. Recognizes how sustainable ranching can facilitate healthy and diverse ecosystems, open space conservation, the preservation of historic, traditional, and current land uses.
 - F. Ensures the long-term fiscal viability of the land base, upholds property rights, and addresses quality of life issues for citizens.
 - G. Seeks sufficiently broad and predictable regulatory assurances in order to achieve conservation goals while meeting economic needs of the community.
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L. For the Parties, this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to all applicable federal and state laws, and nothing herein shall be construed to alter, amend, or affect existing law.

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SIGNED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2000.

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Sharon Bronson, Chair

ATTEST

ATTEST

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Deputy County Attorney

Attorney

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO DEVELOP
THE SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN**

between
the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
and
PIMA COUNTY

I. Parties:

This Memorandum of Understanding is made as of _____ 2000, between Pima County and the National Park Service, hereinafter referred to as "Parties" to the Memorandum of Understanding.

II. Purpose:

This Memorandum of Understanding is written to reflect the cooperative intent of the Parties to develop the goals and objectives of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, and provide a framework for cooperation among the Parties.

III. Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the participating Parties to work with the Steering Committee, interested members of the public, consultants, members of technical committees, and participating jurisdictions and government agencies during the process to discuss and develop meaningful conservation standards as part of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

IV. Goals and Objectives:

Under this Memorandum of Understanding the Parties will work cooperatively to design a conservation plan that:

- A. Complies with federal requirements under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.
- B. Addresses species conservation and federal compliance issues through the development of six planning elements, including Habitat and Corridor Protection; Riparian Protection and Restoration; Mountain Park Expansion; Ranch Conservation; and Cultural and Historic Preservation.
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- E. Recognizes how sustainable ranching can facilitate healthy and diverse ecosystems, open space conservation, the preservation of historic, traditional, and current land uses.
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SIGNED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2000.

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Sharon Bronson, Chair

ATTEST

ATTEST

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Deputy County Attorney

Attorney

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO DEVELOP
THE SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN**
between
the UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
and
PIMA COUNTY

I. Parties:

This Memorandum of Understanding is made as of _____ 2000, between Pima County and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, hereinafter referred to as "Parties" to the Memorandum of Understanding.

II. Purpose:

This Memorandum of Understanding is written to reflect the cooperative intent of the Parties to develop the goals and objectives of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, and provide a framework for cooperation among the Parties.

III. Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the participating Parties to work with the Steering Committee, interested members of the public, consultants, members of technical committees, and participating jurisdictions and government agencies during the process to discuss and develop meaningful conservation standards as part of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

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- K. Facilitates effective long-range intergovernmental research efforts, data and information sharing, and the development of adaptive management strategies.

- L. For the Parties, this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to all applicable federal and state laws, and nothing herein shall be construed to alter, amend, or affect existing law.

V. Term

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SIGNED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2000.

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sharon Bronson, Chair

ATTEST

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Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Deputy County Attorney

Attorney