

Parks and Recreation Commission Informational Report

Open Space Management Overview

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Kerry Baldwin
Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
Natural Resources Division Manager
3500 W. River Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85741
520 877-6161

County Responsibility Layers-

- NRPR has primary and overlapping responsibility for 2004 Bond properties, lands identified in draft MSCP, existing natural resource parks and previous Bond Open Space acquisitions.
- Regional Flood Control District has lands it manages, has agreements with NRPR to manage and third party management Agreements
- Ordinance application and enforcement placed with appropriate County agency- P&Z, CLS, cultural resources, development services and flood control
- Sheriff's Park/Search and Rescue Unit for law enforcement

Scope of the Property Base-

- 88 properties covering over 79,000 acres of fee lands and 87,000 acres of State and BLM grazing leases.
- Current expenditures against the 2004 Bond of approximately \$74 million-\$90 million remaining
- Properties range in size from 40,000 acre working ranch complexes to 1 acre former residential lots.
- Approximately 26,000 acres of fee and 53,000 acres of lease under third party management Agreements

Current Management Priorities-

Do No Harm
Site Security
 Monitoring
 Fencing/Signage
 Law Enforcement
Property Familiarization/Inventory
 GIS Mapping
 Acquisition Environmental Reports
 Bio and Phase I Environmental

Property Database Development
 NRPR Property Mapguide
 Photo Documentation/Establishing Photo Points
 Document Species and/or Special Features of Interest
 Historical Information Archiving
 Special Use Permits for Research
 Property Planning
 County Level SDCP Planning and Project Coordination
 Third Party Management Agreements
 Annual Grazing/Range Condition Operational Discussions
 NRCS Ranch Plans
 Monitor Grazing Plots/Transects
 Establish New Plots/Transects
 Install and Monitor Local Rainfall Gauges
 Cooperative Resource Management Planning-MOU Signatory
 A7 Cooperative Management Plan
 Conservation Easement Baseline Reports, Monitoring and Annual Reporting
 PPC Mitigation Bank
 CAP Mitigation Corridor
 Ranch Property
 BOR- Rancho del Cielo
 NRPR Project Evaluation
 EA Review Template and Review Documentation
 Project Consultation and Document Review
 Property Enhancement Projects
 County CIP Funds
 FEMA Funds
 Grants/Cooperative Projects
 Wildlife Habitat Improvement Projects
 Additional Permanent Waters
 Species Relocations
 Bat Mine Vandal Proof Doors
 Riparian Bottom Fencing
 Recreational Access

Open Space Management Categories-

- **Stewardship-** This management category reflects the trend for the majority of the County managed property. Pima County will manage to ensure that the resource characteristics for which the property was acquired are maintained at their current level to the extent feasible and within Pima County's control. Estimated cost per acre \$45.
- **Third Party Management-** This management category involves a third party manager that has primary responsibility for day to day management on the

property as outlined in a contractual Agreement with the County. Protection of conservation values are the primary basis of the Agreement but other activities are allowed on the land such as sustainable grazing and recreation. Estimated cost per Agreement is \$10-15,000 annually.

- **Active Management/Restoration-** This management category involves lands directly used and managed by Pima County as working landscapes. These lands involve those that are used for public recreation, conservation/cultural resource education or have portions of the property that require more intensive biological management and/or enhancements. Estimated cost per acre is at a minimum \$60/ac and can run over \$2,000/ac.
- **Oversight-**This management category applies to properties that may be owned in fee by individuals or other agencies over which Pima County has a management Agreement or Conservation Easement. Estimated cost per acre starts at \$15/ac.

Current Project Examples-

- Altar Valley Fire Management Plan
- Altar Valley 2008 Bond Restoration Project
- Wildlife Corridor Identification for 2008 Bond Program and RTA Wildlife Corridor Committee
- Arizona Game and Fish Department Public Recreation Access Agreements on A7, Six Bar and Rancho Seco Ranches
- Burrowing Owl Relocations on Canoa Ranch
- Buffelgrass Summit, Buffelgrass Mapping and Control Effort Coordination
- Road Inventory at A7 Ranch
- Resource Management Plan for Tucson Mountain Park
- Fencing Pima Pineapple Cactus (PPC) Mitigation Bank at Madera Highlands
- Monitoring PPC Mitigation Banks
- Water System Enhancement at A7 Ranch
- Mt Lion Reconnaissance of Tucson Mountain Park
- Evaluation of Use of Bio Corridors at Starr Pass Resort
- Establishing new Grazing Monitoring Plots/Transects with BLM, State Land and NRCS at Empirita, Bar V, Rancho Seco, Kings 98, Old Hayhook, Buckelew and Six Bar Ranches
- Bat Gate Construction and Bat Population Monitoring at Tucson Mountain Park
- Riparian Bottom Fencing and Revegetation at Cochie Canyon Property
- Sweetwater Preserve and Robles Pass Management Plan and Trails Planning
- Raul Grijalva/Canoa Ranch Conservation Park Master Plan
- 2008 Bond Open Space Acquisition Program Development
- BLM UDI Clean up Grant Coordination
- Security fencing at Kings 98, Empirita ranch historic buildings
- Public vehicle access check in and check out program on A7, Empirita Ranch and Bar V Ranch
- Living With Urban Wildlife Exhibit Trailer
- Starr Pass Resort Environmental Enhancement Fund Coordination
- Feliz Paseos Universal Access Park

2008 Bond Projects Under Consideration-

In Consideration

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Canoa Ranch Ecosystem Restoration | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Reclaimed Water for Cienega Creek | \$ 4,000,000 |
| Reclaimed Water for Canoa Ranch | \$ 3,000,000 |
| Canoa Ranch Historic Interpretive Center | \$14,900,000 |
| Environmental Compliance | \$ 5,000,000 |
| Avra Valley Watchable Wildlife Site | \$ 725,000 |
| County Ranch Improvements | \$ 620,000 |
| Altar Valley Watershed Restoration Project | \$ 4,000,000 |

Not Recommended to date

Empirita Conservation Education Center
TMP Visitor Enhancements
Universal Access Parks
A7 Ranch Improvements
County Ranch/Farm Habitat Restoration
Colossal Cave Research and Education Bldg

Current NR Program Staff-

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Natural Resources Division Manager | Existing |
| Natural Resource Specialists- (2) | (1) New for FY 07/08 |
| Open Space O&M Coordinator | New in FY 07/08 January 08 |
| Fence Crew- (2) | Existing |
| Open Space O&M Staff- (3) | New in FY 07/08 January 08 |
| Trails Program Coordinator | New in FY 07/08 January 08 |
| Trails/Trailhead O&M Crew- (4) | New in FY 07/08 |
| Rangelands Program Manager | Existing |
| A7 Ranch Staff- (2) | Existing |
| G&F Cooperative Planning Position | Existing Through FY 08/09 |

This list does not include existing assigned O&M staff at Tucson Mountain Park, Agua Caliente Park and Catalina Regional Park- These numbers are:

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| TMP | 5 FTEs and 1.4 temporary staff |
| AC Park | 4 FTEs and 1.9 temporary staff |

Catalina Regional 2 FTEs and .5 temporary staff

Budget Allocations-

| | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------|
| FY 07/08 | Total Division | \$ 2,627,690 |
| (Major allocations = TMP-\$ 404,150, AC Park- \$ 345,362, Catalina Regional- \$ 272,000, A7 Ranch-\$ 270,000) | | |
| | EE Program | <u>-\$ 510,000</u> |
| | | \$ 2,117,690 |
| | Starr Pass EEF | \$ 375,000 |
| | Misc Grants | <u>\$ 60,000</u> |

Open Space Management Working Total \$2,552,690 or about \$15/acre