

Pima County's Endangered Species Act Permit

COVERAGE FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Jenny Neeley
Pima County Office Of Sustainability & Conservation

Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

pima.gov

Critical Habitats & Biological Corridors

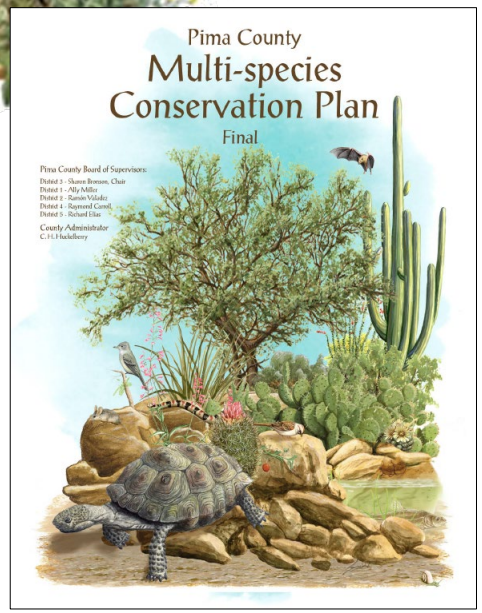
Riparian Areas

Mountain Parks

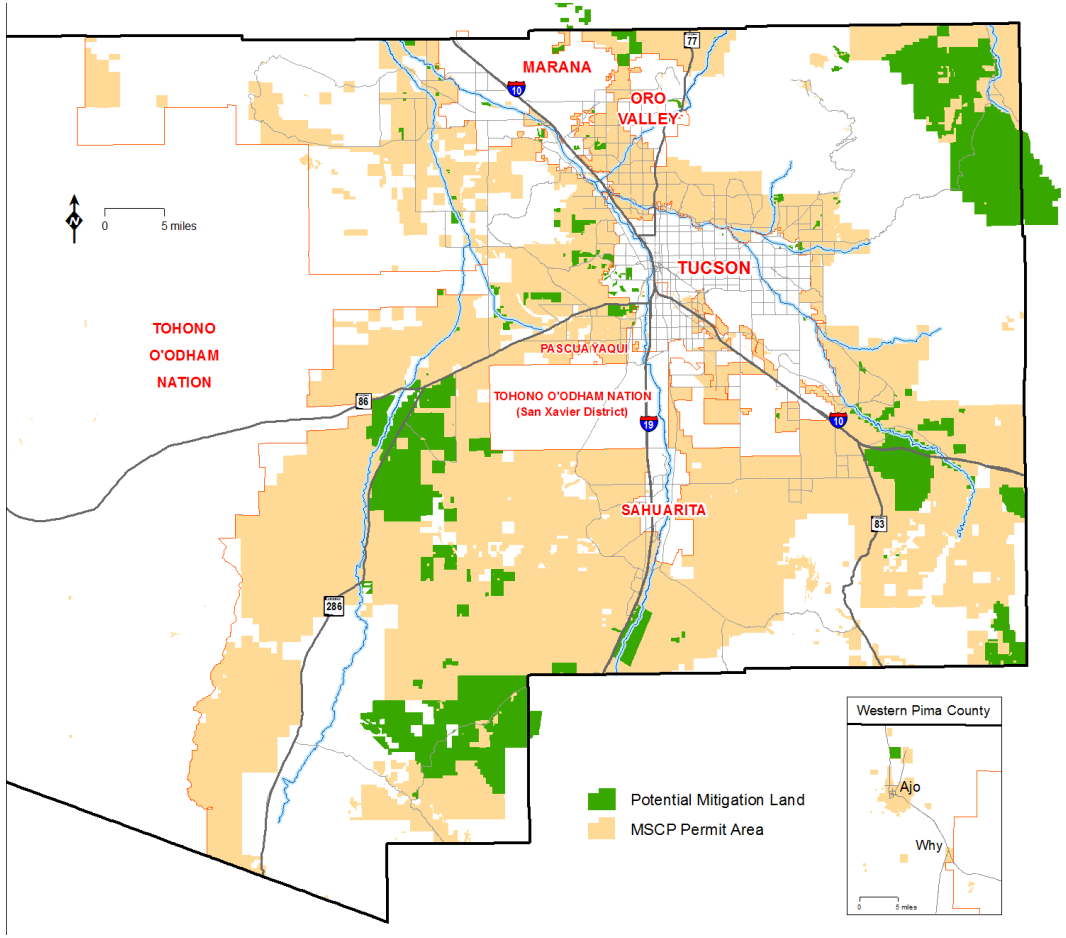
Ranch Conservation

Historical & Cultural Preservation

SDCP Biological Goal: *"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."*



County MSCP Overview



Good for up to 30 years

- Can be renewed

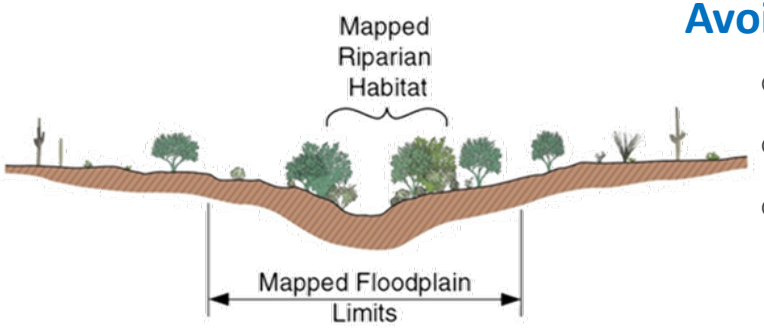
Covers up to 36,000 acres of impacts

- County capital improvement projects
- Participating private developments

Covers 44 species total

- 10 currently listed species
- 44 species at risk of being listed

County Obligations

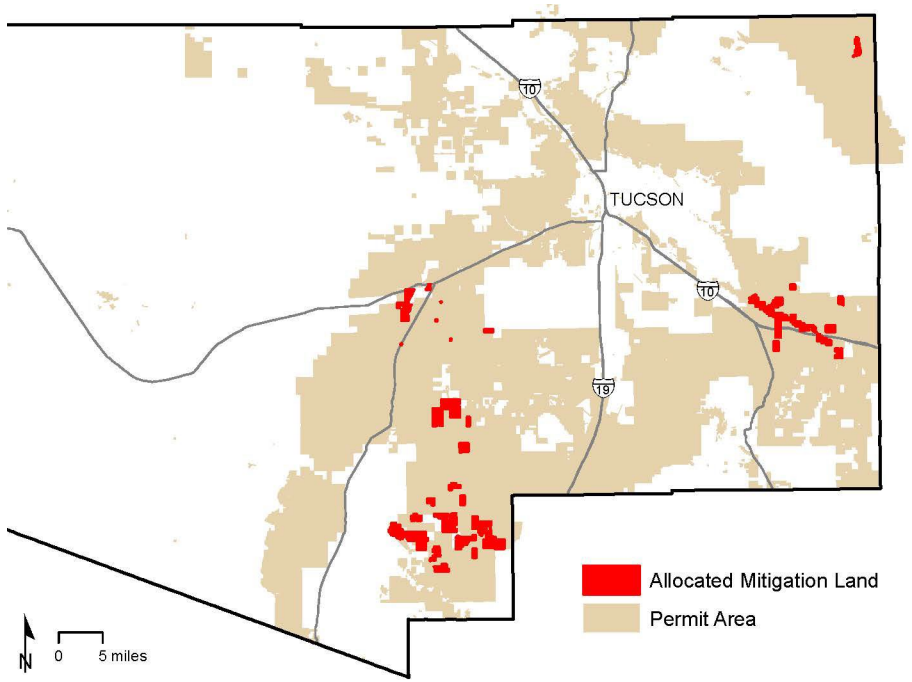


Avoid & Minimize: County must continue to implement conservation rules

- Native Plant Preservation Ordinance
- Riparian Habitat Protection & Mitigation Requirements
- CLS Guidelines

Mitigate: County must protect lands for each acre of impact

- Every acre of impact is tracked
- Mitigation acreage based on impact's location relative to CLS
- Specific County lands "allocated" to meet obligation



Since 2016, the County has mitigated 2,273 acres of impacts by allocating 6,987 acres of mitigation lands.

MSCP Benefits



FOR DEVELOPMENT

Allows projects to move forward where covered species may be present

…

No project-specific consultations or surveys required

…

Streamlines certain regulatory requirements

…

No additional obligations due to owl listing



FOR CONSERVATION

Protects multiple acres of wildlife habitat for every acre impacted

…

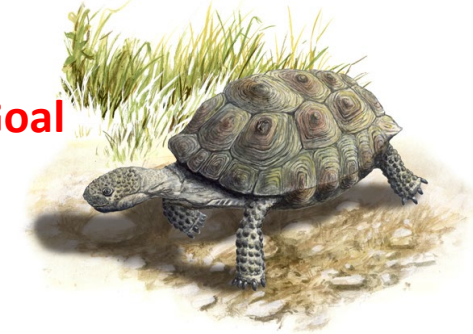
Promotes long-term conservation of covered species and habitat

…

Emphasizes regional landscape connectivity

…

Meets SDCP Biological Goal





CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE PROGRAM

Eligibility Requirements

Project must be on **private land** in **unincorporated Pima Co.**

AND

Require a **residential building permit** authorizing **≥14,000 sqft. of grading**

OR

Require a **site construction permit** for a subdivision or commercial/industrial development.

Nuts & Bolts

A Certificate **covers only that grading permitted** under associated County permit.

Coverage is **"Authorized"** when Certificate is issued.

Coverage is **"Executed"** when grading passes inspection.

Grading **must be completed within 6 years** or Authorized coverage expires.

Coverage via Building Permit

Step 1: Request eligible building permit authorizing ≥ 14,000 sqft. of grading.



That's it.

Coverage provided automatically and free-of-charge for eligible projects.

Eligible building permit types:

Single Family Series: SFR-New; SFR-Addition; SFR-Other

Manufactured Home-New

Residential Pool/Spa

Site Work/Grading

"Authorized Coverage" notice appears on building permit.

COVERAGE VIA SITE PERMIT

STEP 1: Request coverage when applying for site construction permit.

- Ideally request is made in 1st site permit application submittal to DSD
- S10 question is "Admin Review Requirement" on DSD Site Permit Submittal Checklist

Timing of coverage request is VERY IMPORTANT!!

Coverage cannot be requested **until you are applying for site permit**

BUT

Coverage must be requested **before your site permit is issued**

If you want coverage via a site permit, CONTACT OSC!



COVERAGE VIA SITE PERMIT

STEP 2: Submit application materials to OSC for review.

Application materials include:

- 1pg application form
- Owner authorization letter
- GIS shapefiles showing area of disturbance

Application materials are online at: **www.pima.gov/S10PrivateLand**

STEP 3: Pay $720 application fee.

(Additional info/fees may be required for projects with associated CLS mitigation lands)

"Authorized Coverage" notice is emailed after fees are paid.



Private Coverage Benefits



Ensures County-permitted **grading complies with ESA**

…

Allows landowners to **avoid most surveys, individual consultations**

…

Streamlines requirements for certain federal permits and county regulations

…

Impacts are mitigated by Pima County **at little/no cost to landowner**

Streamlining Benefits

Federal Clean Water Act Permits

If project needs certain types of 404 permits:

Coverage can simplify application process, potentially eliminate consultations/surveys





County Native Plant Preservation Ordinance

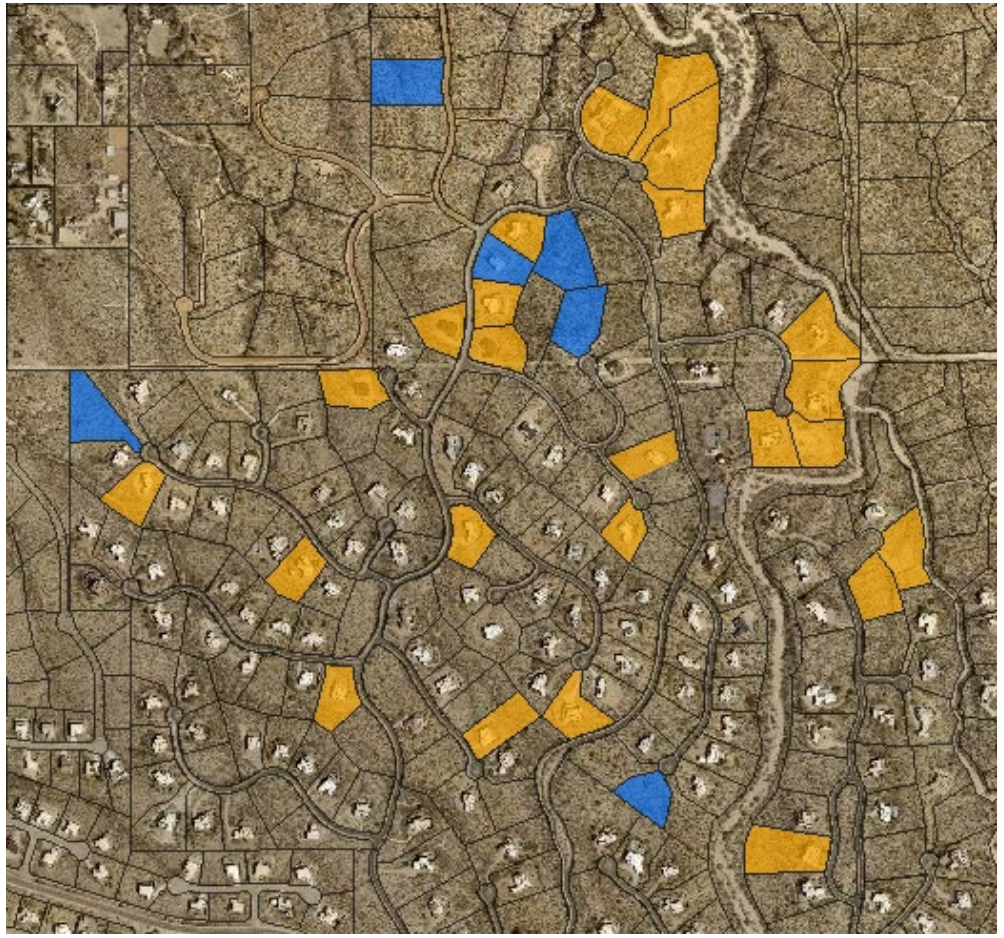
If project impacts Pima pineapple cactus, needle-spined cactus or Huachuca water umbel:

Coverage can satisfy replacement/supplemental plant mitigation requirements

Private Coverage Participation

As of December 2022:

- 483 projects have been issued Authorized coverage
- 294 projects have finished grading and their impacts have been mitigated by the County
- 15 projects have used their coverage to streamline PPC NPPO requirement
- Largest covered private project: Wilmot Solar farm (888 acres)



Certificate of Coverage interactive map available at:
https://www.pima.gov/S10PrivateLand

THANK YOU!

Visit

www.pima.gov/S10PrivateLand

for more information

Jenny Neeley
Office of Sustainability & Conservation
Jenny.Neeley@pima.gov
520-724-9487

