

## **Appendix I. Biological Resources Information**

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## United States Department of the Interior



### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arizona Ecological Services Field Office  
9828 North 31st Ave

#c3

Phoenix, AZ 85051-2517

Phone: (602) 242-0210 Fax: (602) 242-2513

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>

[http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/EndangeredSpecies\\_Main.html](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/EndangeredSpecies_Main.html)

In Reply Refer To:

November 15, 2017

Consultation Code: 02EAAZ00-2016-SLI-0401

Event Code: 02EAAZ00-2018-E-00337

Project Name: STP-999-A(365)X; H7454; North-South Corridor Study

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing this list under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The list you have generated identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, and designated and proposed critical habitat, that may occur within one or more delineated United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangles with which your project polygon intersects. Each quadrangle covers, at minimum, 49 square miles. In some cases, a species does not currently occur within a quadrangle but occurs nearby and could be affected by a project. Please refer to the species information links found at:

[http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Docs\\_Species.htm](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Docs_Species.htm)

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/MiscDocs/AZSpeciesReference.pdf> .

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of Federal trust resources and to consult with us if their projects may affect federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat. A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, we recommend preparing a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If the Federal action agency determines that listed species or critical habitat may be affected by a federally funded, permitted or authorized activity, the agency must consult with us pursuant to 50 CFR 402. Note that a "may affect" determination includes effects that may not be adverse and that may be beneficial, insignificant, or discountable. You should request consultation with us even if only one individual or habitat segment may be affected. The effects analysis should include the entire action area, which often extends well outside the project boundary or "footprint." For example, projects that involve streams and river systems should consider downstream effects. If the Federal action agency determines that the action may jeopardize a proposed species or adversely modify proposed critical habitat, the agency must enter into a section 7 conference. The agency may choose to confer with us on an action that may affect proposed species or critical habitat.

Candidate species are those for which there is sufficient information to support a proposal for listing. Although candidate species have no legal protection under the Act, we recommend considering them in the planning process in the event they become proposed or listed prior to project completion. More information on the regulations (50 CFR 402) and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in our Endangered Species Consultation Handbook at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>.

We also advise you to consider species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act) (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.). The MBTA prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when authorized by the Service. The Eagle Act prohibits anyone, without a permit, from taking (including disturbing) eagles, and their parts, nests, or eggs. Currently 1026 species of birds are protected by the MBTA, including species such as the western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*). Protected western burrowing owls are often found in urban areas and may use their nest/burrows year-round; destruction of the burrow may result in the unpermitted take of the owl or their eggs.

If a bald eagle (or golden eagle) nest occurs in or near the proposed project area, you should evaluate your project to determine whether it is likely to disturb or harm eagles. The National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines provide recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles:

<https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationalbaldeaglenagementguidelines.pdf>

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/eagle-management.php>.

The Division of Migratory Birds (505/248-7882) administers and issues permits under the MBTA and Eagle Act, while our office can provide guidance and Technical Assistance. For more information regarding the MBTA, BGEPA, and permitting processes, please visit the following: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/incidental-take.php>. Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for communication tower projects (e.g. cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at:

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds/collisions/communication-towers.php>

Activities that involve streams (including intermittent streams) and/or wetlands are regulated by

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the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). We recommend that you contact the Corps to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas. For activities within a National Wildlife Refuge, we recommend that you contact refuge staff for specific information about refuge resources.

If your action is on tribal land or has implications for off-reservation tribal interests, we encourage you to contact the tribe(s) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to discuss potential tribal concerns, and to invite any affected tribe and the BIA to participate in the section 7 consultation. In keeping with our tribal trust responsibility, we will notify tribes that may be affected by proposed actions when section 7 consultation is initiated.

We also recommend you seek additional information and coordinate your project with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Information on known species detections, special status species, and Arizona species of greatest conservation need, such as the western burrowing owl and the Sonoran desert tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*) can be found by using their Online Environmental Review Tool, administered through the Heritage Data Management System and Project Evaluation Program <https://www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/HeritageFund/>.

For additional communications regarding this project, please refer to the consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter. We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. If we may be of further assistance, please contact our following offices for projects in these areas:

Northern Arizona: Flagstaff Office 928/556-2001  
Central Arizona: Phoenix office 602/242-0210  
Southern Arizona: Tucson Office 520/670-6144

Sincerely,  
/s/ Steven L. Spangle Field Supervisor

Attachment

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
-

## Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Arizona Ecological Services Field Office**

9828 North 31st Ave

#c3

Phoenix, AZ 85051-2517

(602) 242-0210

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 02EAAZ00-2016-SLI-0401

Event Code: 02EAAZ00-2018-E-00337

Project Name: STP-999-A(365)X; H7454; North-South Corridor Study

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Study for a 45-mile transportation corridor to connect US 60 with I-10 in Pinal County, funded by FHWA and administered by ADOT. The study will identify a route that extends from near Apache Junction to the vicinity of Eloy. An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The study area includes mostly undeveloped desert managed by the Arizona State Land Department and privately owned agricultural land.

### Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/33.03418905178842N111.39832055732535W>



Counties: Maricopa, AZ | Pinal, AZ

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

### Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Lesser Long-nosed Bat <i>Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3245">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3245</a>	Endangered
Sonoran Pronghorn <i>Antilocapra americana sonoriensis</i> Population: U.S.A. (AZ), Mexico No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4750">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4750</a>	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

### Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104</a>	Endangered
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Population: Western U.S. DPS There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</a>	Threatened
Yuma Clapper Rail <i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3505">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3505</a>	Endangered

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## Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Northern Mexican Gartersnake <i>Thamnophis eques megalops</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7655">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7655</a>	Threatened

## Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Roundtail Chub <i>Gila robusta</i> Population: Lower Colorado River Basin DPS No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2782">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2782</a>	Proposed Threatened

## Critical habitats

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911#crithab">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911#crithab</a>	Proposed

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## United States Department of the Interior



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<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>

[http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/EndangeredSpecies\\_Main.html](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/EndangeredSpecies_Main.html)

In Reply Refer To:

November 30, 2020

Consultation Code: 02EAAZ00-2021-SLI-0209

Event Code: 02EAAZ00-2021-E-00615

Project Name: STP-999-A(365)X; H7454; North-South Corridor Study

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing this list under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The list you have generated identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, and designated and proposed critical habitat, that may occur within one or more delineated United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangles with which your project polygon intersects. Each quadrangle covers, at minimum, 49 square miles. In some cases, a species does not currently occur within a quadrangle but occurs nearby and could be affected by a project. Please refer to the species information links found at:

[http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Docs\\_Species.htm](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Docs_Species.htm)

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/MiscDocs/AZSpeciesReference.pdf> .

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of Federal trust resources and to consult with us if their projects may affect federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat. A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, we recommend preparing a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment to determine whether the project may

affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

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We also advise you to consider species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act) (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.). The MBTA prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when authorized by the Service. The Eagle Act prohibits anyone, without a permit, from taking (including disturbing) eagles, and their parts, nests, or eggs. Currently 1026 species of birds are protected by the MBTA, including species such as the western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*). Protected western burrowing owls are often found in urban areas and may use their nest/burrows year-round; destruction of the burrow may result in the unpermitted take of the owl or their eggs.

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<https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationalbaldeaglenanagementguidelines.pdf>

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/eagle-management.php>.

The Division of Migratory Birds (505/248-7882) administers and issues permits under the MBTA and Eagle Act, while our office can provide guidance and Technical Assistance. For more information regarding the MBTA, BGEPA, and permitting processes, please visit the following: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/incidental-take.php>. Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for communication tower projects (e.g. cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at:

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<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds/collisions/communication-towers.php>.

Activities that involve streams (including intermittent streams) and/or wetlands are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). We recommend that you contact the Corps to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas. For activities within a National Wildlife Refuge, we recommend that you contact refuge staff for specific information about refuge resources.

If your action is on tribal land or has implications for off-reservation tribal interests, we encourage you to contact the tribe(s) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to discuss potential tribal concerns, and to invite any affected tribe and the BIA to participate in the section 7 consultation. In keeping with our tribal trust responsibility, we will notify tribes that may be affected by proposed actions when section 7 consultation is initiated.

We also recommend you seek additional information and coordinate your project with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Information on known species detections, special status species, and Arizona species of greatest conservation need, such as the western burrowing owl and the Sonoran desert tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*) can be found by using their Online Environmental Review Tool, administered through the Heritage Data Management System and Project Evaluation Program <https://www.azgfd.com/Wildlife/HeritageFund/>.

For additional communications regarding this project, please refer to the consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter. We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. If we may be of further assistance, please contact our following offices for projects in these areas:

Northern Arizona: Flagstaff Office 928/556-2001

Central Arizona: Phoenix office 602/242-0210

Southern Arizona: Tucson Office 520/670-6144

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeff Humphrey Field Supervisor

Attachment

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
-

## Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Arizona Ecological Services Field Office**

9828 North 31st Ave

#c3

Phoenix, AZ 85051-2517

(602) 242-0210

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 02EAAZ00-2021-SLI-0209

Event Code: 02EAAZ00-2021-E-00615

Project Name: STP-999-A(365)X; H7454; North-South Corridor Study

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Study for a 45-mile transportation corridor to connect US 60 with I-10 in Pinal County, funded by FHWA and administered by ADOT. The study will identify a route that extends from near Apache Junction to the vicinity of Eloy. An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The study area includes mostly undeveloped desert managed by the Arizona State Land Department and privately owned agricultural land.

### Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/32.97476874132194N111.4412596153976W>



Counties: Maricopa, AZ | Pinal, AZ

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 8 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Sonoran Pronghorn <i>Antilocapra americana sonoriensis</i> Population: U.S.A. (AZ), Mexico No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4750">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4750</a>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

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## Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104</a>	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749</a>	Endangered
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Population: Western U.S. DPS There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</a>	Threatened
Yuma Ridgways (clapper) Rail <i>Rallus obsoletus [=longirostris] yumanensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3505">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3505</a>	Endangered

## Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Northern Mexican Gartersnake <i>Thamnophis eques megalops</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7655">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7655</a>	Threatened
Sonoran Desert Tortoise <i>Gopherus morafkai</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9289">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9289</a>	Candidate

## Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Acuna Cactus <i>Echinomastus erectocentrus var. acunensis</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5785">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5785</a>	Endangered

## Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.



# Arizona Environmental Online Review Tool Report



## *Arizona Game and Fish Department Mission*

*To conserve Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and manage for safe, compatible outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations.*

### **Project Name:**

STP-999-A(365)X; H7454; North-South Corridor Study

### **User Project Number:**

STP-999-A(365)X; H7454

### **Project Description:**

Study for a 45-mile transportation corridor to connect US 60 with I-10 in Pinal County, funded by FHWA and administered by ADOT. The study will identify a route that extends from near Apache Junction to the vicinity of Eloy. An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The study area includes mostly undeveloped desert managed by the Arizona State Land Department and privately owned agricultural land.

### **Project Type:**

Transportation & Infrastructure, Road construction (including staging areas), Realignment/new roads

### **Contact Person:**

Tracy Hamilton

### **Organization:**

HDR Engineering, Inc.

### **On Behalf Of:**

ADOT

### **Project ID:**

HGIS-12380

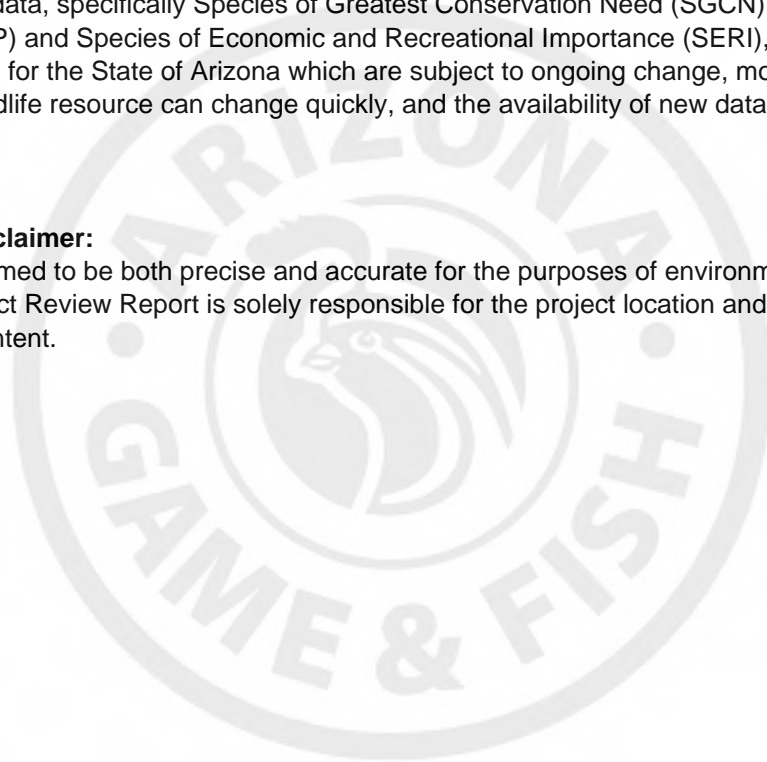
***Please review the entire report for project type and/or species recommendations for the location information entered. Please retain a copy for future reference.***

**Disclaimer:**

1. This Environmental Review is based on the project study area that was entered. The report must be updated if the project study area, location, or the type of project changes.
2. This is a preliminary environmental screening tool. It is not a substitute for the potential knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. This review is also not intended to replace environmental consultation (including federal consultation under the Endangered Species Act), land use permitting, or the Departments review of site-specific projects.
3. The Departments Heritage Data Management System (HDMS) data is not intended to include potential distribution of special status species. Arizona is large and diverse with plants, animals, and environmental conditions that are ever changing. Consequently, many areas may contain species that biologists do not know about or species previously noted in a particular area may no longer occur there. HDMS data contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the Department. Not all of Arizona has been surveyed for special status species, and surveys that have been conducted have varied greatly in scope and intensity. Such surveys may reveal previously undocumented population of species of special concern.
4. HabiMap Arizona data, specifically Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) under our State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and Species of Economic and Recreational Importance (SERI), represent potential species distribution models for the State of Arizona which are subject to ongoing change, modification and refinement. The status of a wildlife resource can change quickly, and the availability of new data will necessitate a refined assessment.

**Locations Accuracy Disclaimer:**

Project locations are assumed to be both precise and accurate for the purposes of environmental review. The creator/owner of the Project Review Report is solely responsible for the project location and thus the correctness of the Project Review Report content.

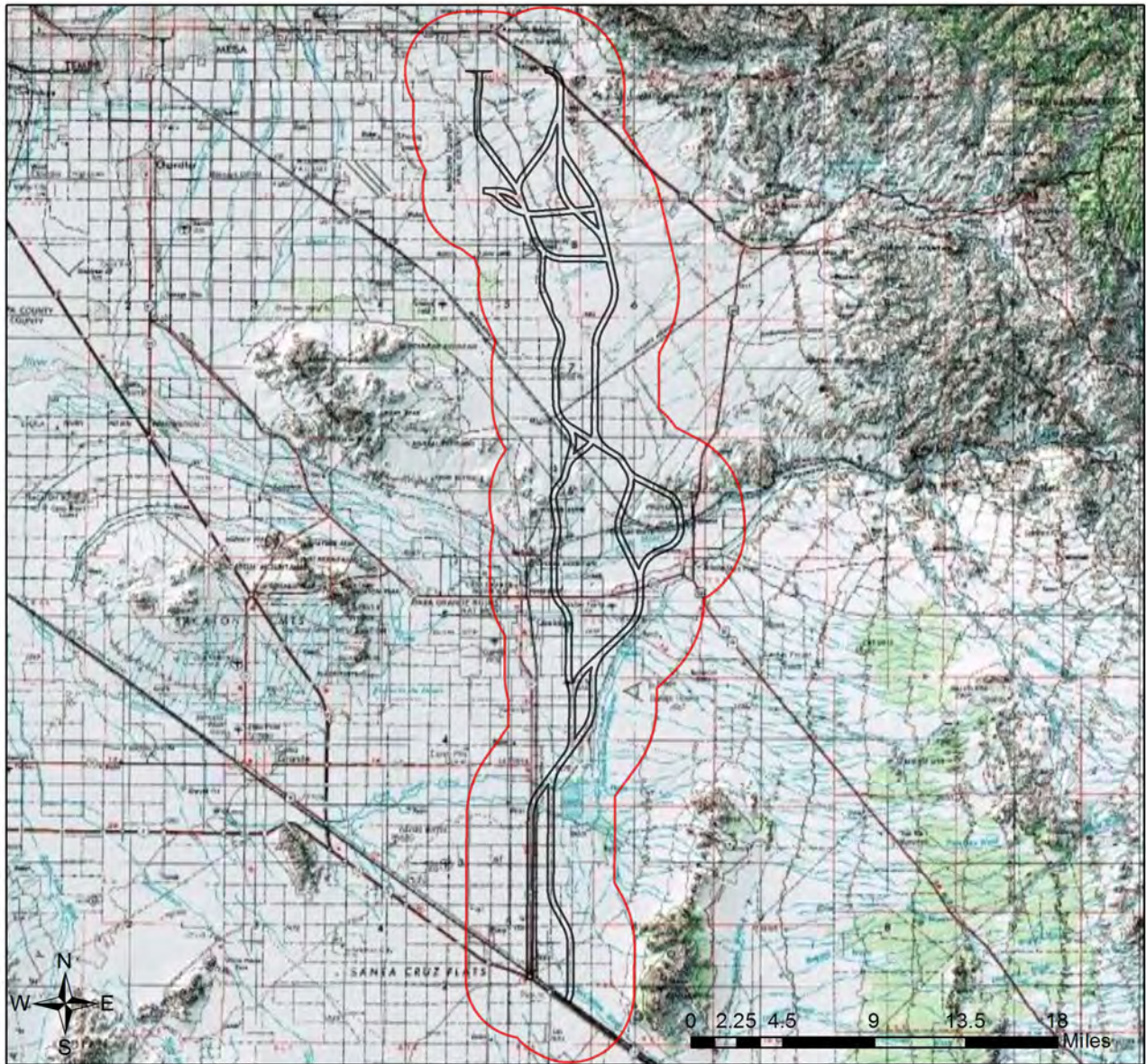




**Recommendations Disclaimer:**

1. The Department is interested in the conservation of all fish and wildlife resources, including those species listed in this report and those that may have not been documented within the project vicinity as well as other game and nongame wildlife.
2. Recommendations have been made by the Department, under authority of Arizona Revised Statutes Title 5 (Amusements and Sports), 17 (Game and Fish), and 28 (Transportation).
3. Potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources may be minimized or avoided by the recommendations generated from information submitted for your proposed project. These recommendations are preliminary in scope, designed to provide early considerations on all species of wildlife.
4. Making this information directly available does not substitute for the Department's review of project proposals, and should not decrease our opportunity to review and evaluate additional project information and/or new project proposals.
5. Further coordination with the Department requires the submittal of this Environmental Review Report with a cover letter and project plans or documentation that includes project narrative, acreage to be impacted, how construction or project activity(s) are to be accomplished, and project locality information (including site map). Once AGFD had received the information, please allow 30 days for completion of project reviews. Send requests to:  
**Project Evaluation Program, Habitat Branch**  
**Arizona Game and Fish Department**  
**5000 West Carefree Highway**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85086-5000**  
**Phone Number: (623) 236-7600**  
**Fax Number: (623) 236-7366**  
**Or**  
[PEP@azgfd.gov](mailto:PEP@azgfd.gov)
6. Coordination may also be necessary under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and/or Endangered Species Act (ESA). Site specific recommendations may be proposed during further NEPA/ESA analysis or through coordination with affected agencies



## STP-999-A(365)X; H7454; North-South Corridor Study USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



-  Project Boundary
-  Buffered Project Boundary

Project Size (acres): 23,026.25

Lat/Long (DD): 33.1090 / -111.4731

County(s): Pinal

AGFD Region(s): Mesa; Tucson

Township/Range(s): T1N, R8E; T1S, R8E; T1S, R9E +

USGS Quad(s): APACHE JUNCTION; DESERT WELL +

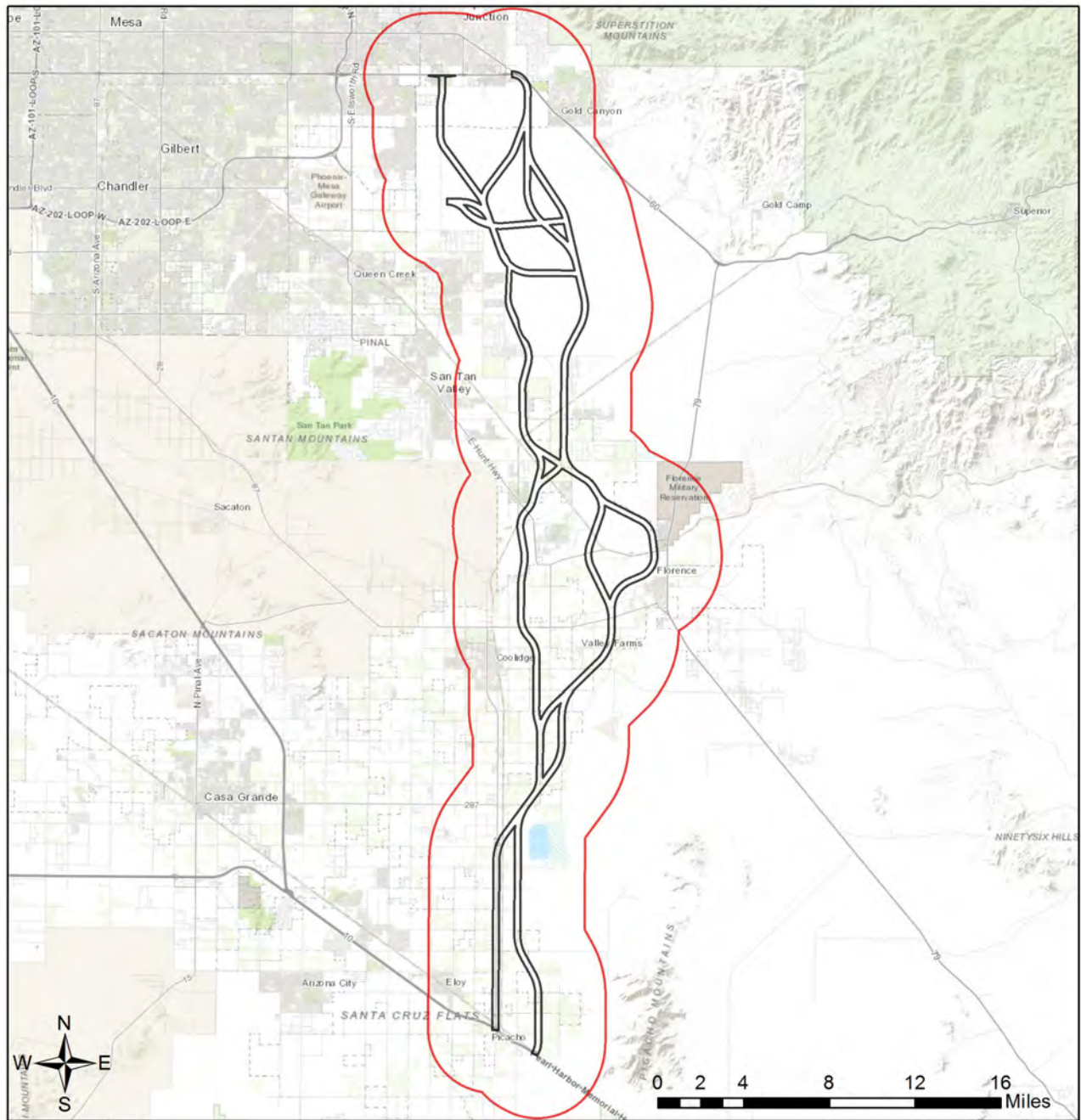
Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap





# STP-999-A(365)X; H7454; North-South Corridor Study

Web Map As Submitted By User



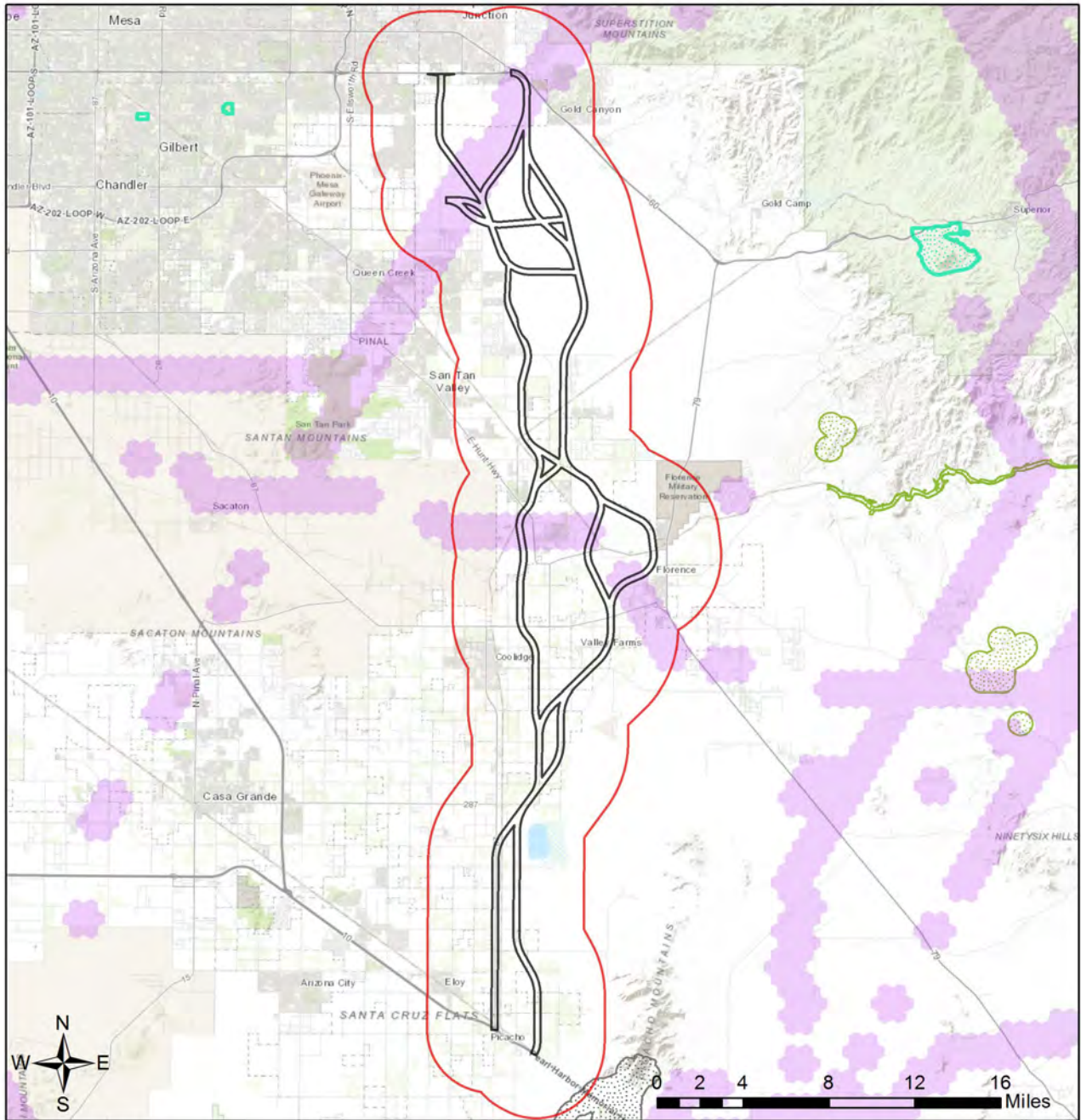
- Project Boundary
- Buffered Project Boundary

Project Size (acres): 23,026.25  
Lat/Long (DD): 33.1090 / -111.4731  
County(s): Pinal  
AGFD Region(s): Mesa; Tucson  
Township/Range(s): T1N, R8E; T1S, R8E; T1S, R9E +  
USGS Quad(s): APACHE JUNCTION; DESERT WELL +

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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## Important Areas



- Project Boundary
- Buffered Project Boundary
- Wildlife Connectivity
- Important Connectivity Zones
- Critical Habitat
- Important Bird Areas

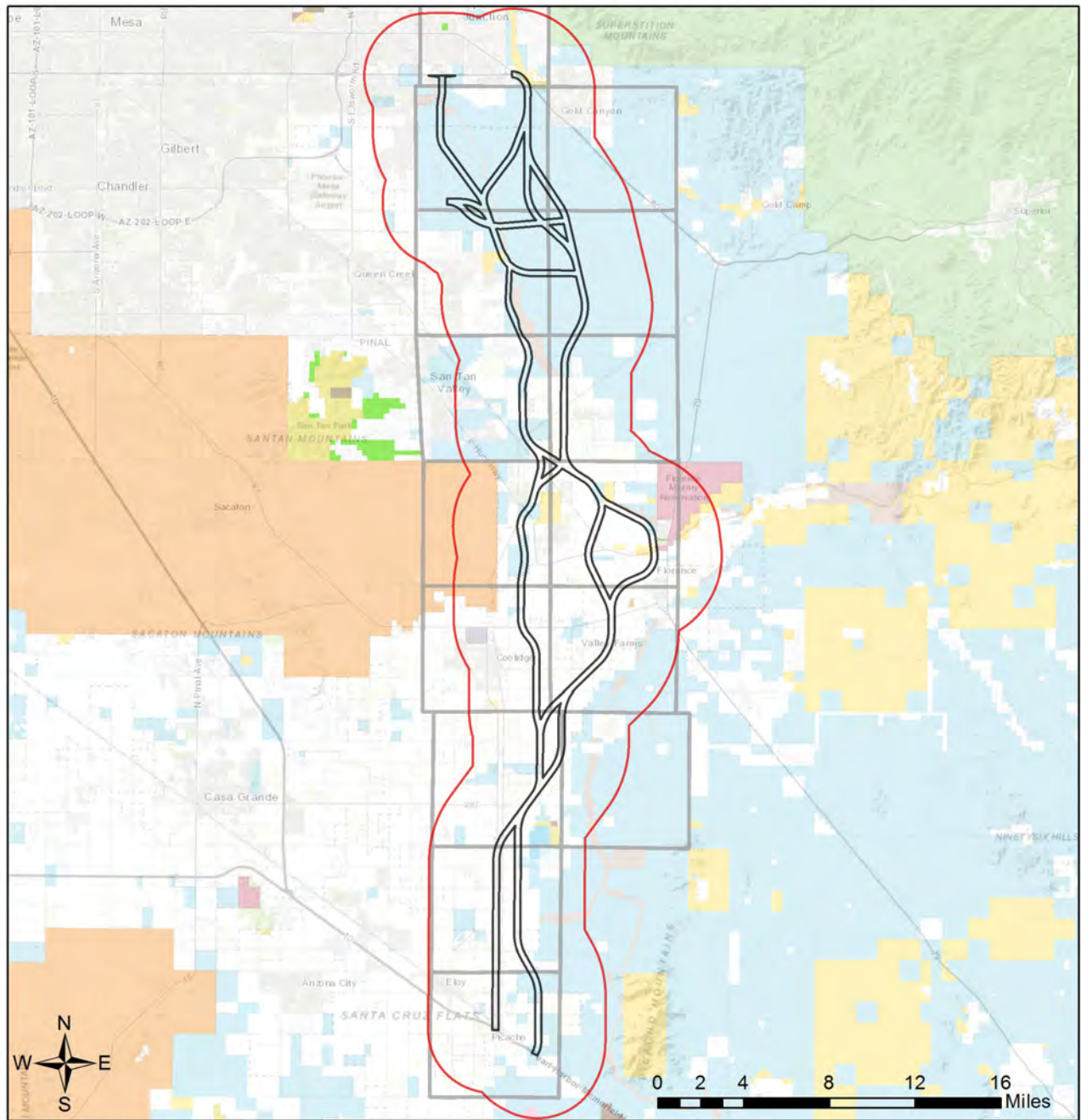
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## STP-999-A(365)X; H7454; North-South Corridor Study

### Township/Ranges and Land Ownership



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Project Boundary        | <span style="background-color: #FFC0CB; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Military               |
| <span style="border: 2px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Buffered Project Boundary | <span style="background-color: #90EE90; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Mixed/Other            |
| <span style="border: 1px solid gray; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Township/Ranges          | <span style="background-color: #DDA0DD; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> National Park/Mon.     |
| <b>Land Ownership</b>  |   |
| <span style="background-color: #F08080; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> AZ Game & Fish Dept.  | <span style="background-color: #A0522D; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> State & Regional Parks |
| <span style="background-color: #FFD700; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> BLM                   | <span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> State Trust            |
| <span style="background-color: #D3D3D3; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> BOR                   | <span style="background-color: #90EE90; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> US Forest Service      |
| <span style="background-color: #FF8C00; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Indian Res.           | <span style="background-color: #3CB371; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Wildlife Area/Refuge   |

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**Special Status Species Documented within 3 Miles of Project Vicinity**

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Agosia chrysogaster chrysogaster	Gila Longfin Dace	SC		S		1B
Athene cucularia hypugaea	Western Burrowing Owl	SC	S	S		1B
Catostomus clarkii	Desert Sucker	SC	S	S		1B
Catostomus insignis	Sonora Sucker	SC	S	S		1B
Chionactis occipitalis klauberi	Tucson Shovel-nosed Snake	SC				1A
Coccyzus americanus	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Western DPS)	LT	S			1A
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	LE				1A
Gopherus morafkai	Sonoran Desert Tortoise	C	S	S		1A
Heloderma suspectum	Gila Monster					1A
Lepus alleni	Antelope Jackrabbit					1B
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	Pocketed Free-tailed Bat					1B
Phyllorhynchus browni	Saddled Leaf-nosed Snake					1B
Rallus obsoletus yumanensis	Yuma Ridgway's Rail	LE				1A

Note: Status code definitions can be found at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/wildlifeguidelines/statusdefinitions/>

**Special Areas Documented that Intersect with Project Footprint as Drawn**

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
CAP Canal	Maricopa County Wildlife Movement Area - Landscape					
Florence Military Reservation	Pinal County Wildlife Movement Area - Landscape					
Gila River	Pinal County Wildlife Movement Area - Riparian/Wash					
Important Connectivity Zone	Wildlife Connectivity					
Queen Creek - Gila River Indian Community	Maricopa County Wildlife Movement Area - Riparian/Wash					
Queen Creek - Gila River Indian Community	Pinal County Wildlife Movement Area - Riparian/Wash					
Riparian Area	Riparian Area					
Superstition Mountains to Goldfield Mountains and Weekes Wash	Pinal County Wildlife Movement Area - Landscape					
Valley north and east of the San Tan Mountains	Pinal County Wildlife Movement Area - Landscape					
Weekes Wash	Pinal County Wildlife Movement Area - Riparian/Wash					

Note: Status code definitions can be found at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/wildlifeguidelines/statusdefinitions/>

**Species of Greatest Conservation Need Predicted that Intersect with Project Footprint as Drawn, based on Predicted Range Models**

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
<i>Agosia chrysogaster</i>	Longfin Dace	SC		S		1B
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood Duck					1B
<i>Ammospermophilus harrisi</i>	Harris' Antelope Squirrel					1B
<i>Anaxyrus retiformis</i>	Sonoran Green Toad			S		1B
<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	Sprague's Pipit	SC				1A
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	BGA		S		1B
<i>Athene cucularia hypugaea</i>	Western Burrowing Owl	SC	S	S		1B
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern					1B
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous Hawk	SC		S		1B
<i>Calypte costae</i>	Costa's Hummingbird					1C
<i>Catostomus clarkii</i>	Desert Sucker	SC	S	S		1B
<i>Catostomus insignis</i>	Sonora Sucker	SC	S	S		1B
<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	SC				1B
<i>Chilomeniscus stramineus</i>	Variable Sandsnake					1B
<i>Chionactis annulata</i>	Resplendent Shovel-nosed Snake	SC				1C
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Marsh Wren					1C
<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>	Gilded Flicker			S		1B
<i>Coluber bilineatus</i>	Sonoran Whipsnake					1B
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat	SC	S	S		1B
<i>Crotalus tigris</i>	Tiger Rattlesnake					1B
<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	Broad-billed Hummingbird		S			1B
<i>Cyprinodon macularius</i>	Desert Pupfish	LE				1A
<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	Gray Flycatcher					1C
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted Bat	SC	S	S		1B
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	Greater Western Bonneted Bat	SC		S		1B
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	SC	S	S		1A
<i>Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum</i>	Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl	SC	S	S		1B
<i>Gopherus morafkai</i>	Sonoran Desert Tortoise	C	S	S		1A
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	SC, BGA	S	S		1A
<i>Heloderma suspectum</i>	Gila Monster					1A
<i>Incilius alvarius</i>	Sonoran Desert Toad					1B
<i>Kinosternon sonoriense sonoriense</i>	Desert Mud Turtle			S		1B
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	Western Red Bat		S			1B
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	Western Yellow Bat		S			1B
<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	Ocelot	LE				1A
<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>	Lesser Long-nosed Bat	SC				1A
<i>Lepus alleni</i>	Antelope Jackrabbit					1B
<i>Macrotus californicus</i>	California Leaf-nosed Bat	SC		S		1B

**Species of Greatest Conservation Need Predicted that Intersect with Project Footprint as Drawn, based on Predicted Range Models**

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Melanerpes uropygialis	Gila Woodpecker					1B
Melospiza lincolni	Lincoln's Sparrow					1B
Melospiza aberti	Abert's Towhee		S			1B
Micrathene whitneyi	Elf Owl					1C
Micruroides euryxanthus	Sonoran Coralsnake					1B
Myiarchus tyrannulus	Brown-crested Flycatcher					1C
Myotis occultus	Arizona Myotis	SC		S		1B
Myotis velifer	Cave Myotis	SC		S		1B
Myotis yumanensis	Yuma Myotis	SC				1B
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	Pocketed Free-tailed Bat					1B
Oreoscoptes montanus	Sage Thrasher					1C
Oreothlypis luciae	Lucy's Warbler					1C
Panthera onca	Jaguar	LE				1A
Passerculus sandwichensis	Savannah Sparrow					1B
Perognathus longimembris	Little Pocket Mouse	No Status				1B
Phrynosoma goodei	Goode's Horned Lizard					1B
Phrynosoma solare	Regal Horned Lizard					1B
Phyllorhynchus browni	Saddled Leaf-nosed Snake					1B
Progne subis hesperia	Desert Purple Martin			S		1B
Rallus obsoletus yumanensis	Yuma Ridgway's Rail	LE				1A
Setophaga petechia	Yellow Warbler					1B
Sphyrapicus nuchalis	Red-naped Sapsucker					1C
Spizella breweri	Brewer's Sparrow					1C
Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark					1C
Tadarida brasiliensis	Brazilian Free-tailed Bat					1B
Toxostoma lecontei	LeConte's Thrasher			S		1B
Troglodytes pacificus	Pacific Wren					1B
Vireo bellii arizonae	Arizona Bell's Vireo					1B
Vulpes macrotis	Kit Fox	No Status				1B

**Species of Economic and Recreation Importance Predicted that Intersect with Project Footprint as Drawn**

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Callipepla gambelii	Gambel's Quail					
Odocoileus hemionus	Mule Deer					
Pecari tajacu	Javelina					
Puma concolor	Mountain Lion					
Zenaida asiatica	White-winged Dove					

**Species of Economic and Recreation Importance Predicted that Intersect with Project Footprint as Drawn**

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove					

**Project Type: Transportation & Infrastructure, Road construction (including staging areas), Realignment/new roads**

**Project Type Recommendations:**

**Bridge Maintenance/Construction**

Identify whether wildlife species use the structure for roosting or nesting during anticipated maintenance/construction period. Plan the timing of maintenance/construction to minimize impacts to wildlife species. In addition to the species list generated by the Arizona's On-line Environmental Review Tool, the Department recommends that surveys be conducted at the bridge and in the vicinity of the bridge to identify additional or currently undocumented bat, bird, or aquatic species in the project area. To minimize impacts to birds and bats, as well as aquatic species, consider conducting maintenance and construction activities outside the breeding/maternity season (breeding seasons for birds and bats usually occur spring - summer). Examining the crevices for the presence of bats prior to pouring new paving materials or that the top of those crevices be sealed to prevent material from dripping or falling through the cracks and potentially onto bats. If bats are present, maintenance and construction (including paving and milling) activities should be conducted during nighttime hours, if possible, when the fewest number of bats will be roosting. Minimize impacts to the vegetation community. Unavoidable impacts to vegetation should be mitigated on-site whenever possible. A revegetation plan should be developed to replace impacted communities.

Consider design structures and construction plans that minimize impacts to channel geometry (i.e., width/depth ratio, sinuosity, allow overflow channels), to avoid alteration of hydrological function. Consider incorporating roosting sites for bats into bridge designs. During construction, erosion control structures and drainage features should be used to prevent introduction of sediment laden runoff into the waterway. Minimize instream construction activity. If culverts are planned, use wildlife friendly designs to mitigate impacts to wildlife and fish movement. Guidelines for bridge designs to facilitate wildlife passage can be found on our Wildlife Friendly Guidelines web page under the Wildlife Planning button, at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/wildlifeguidelines/>.

Fence recommendations will be dependant upon the goals of the fence project and the wildlife species expected to be impacted by the project. General guidelines for ensuring wildlife-friendly fences include: barbless wire on the top and bottom with the maximum fence height 42", minimum height for bottom 16". Modifications to this design may be considered for fencing anticipated to be routinely encountered by elk, bighorn sheep or pronghorn (e.g., Pronghorn fencing would require 18" minimum height on the bottom). Please refer to the Department's Fencing Guidelines located on Wildlife Friendly Guidelines page, which is part of the Wildlife Planning button at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/wildlifeguidelines/>.

During the planning stages of your project, please consider the local or regional needs of wildlife in regards to movement, connectivity, and access to habitat needs. Loss of this permeability prevents wildlife from accessing resources, finding mates, reduces gene flow, prevents wildlife from re-colonizing areas where local extirpations may have occurred, and ultimately prevents wildlife from contributing to ecosystem functions, such as pollination, seed dispersal, control of prey numbers, and resistance to invasive species. In many cases, streams and washes provide natural movement corridors for wildlife and should be maintained in their natural state. Uplands also support a large diversity of species, and should be contained within important wildlife movement corridors. In addition, maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem functions can be facilitated through improving designs of structures, fences, roadways, and culverts to promote passage for a variety of wildlife. Guidelines for many of these can be found at: <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/wildlifeguidelines/>.

Consider impacts of outdoor lighting on wildlife and develop measures or alternatives that can be taken to increase human safety while minimizing potential impacts to wildlife. Conduct wildlife surveys to determine species within project area, and evaluate proposed activities based on species biology and natural history to determine if artificial lighting may disrupt behavior patterns or habitat use. Use only the minimum amount of light needed for safety. Narrow spectrum bulbs should be used as often as possible to lower the range of species affected by lighting. All lighting should be shielded, canted, or cut to ensure that light reaches only areas needing illumination.

Minimize the potential introduction or spread of exotic invasive species, including aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, insects and pathogens. Precautions should be taken to wash and/or decontaminate all equipment utilized in the project activities before entering and leaving the site. See the Arizona Department of Agriculture website for a list of prohibited and restricted noxious weeds at <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/az.shtml> and the Arizona Native Plant Society <https://aznps.com/invas> for recommendations on how to control. To view a list of documented invasive species or to report invasive species in or near your project area visit iMapInvasives - a national cloud-based application for tracking and managing invasive species at <https://imap.natureserve.org/imap/services/page/map.html>.

- To build a list: zoom to your area of interest, use the identify/measure tool to draw a polygon around your area of interest, and select "See What's Here" for a list of reported species. To export the list, you must have an account and be logged in. You can then use the export tool to draw a boundary and export the records in a csv file.

Minimization and mitigation of impacts to wildlife and fish species due to changes in water quality, quantity, chemistry, temperature, and alteration to flow regimes (timing, magnitude, duration, and frequency of floods) should be evaluated. Minimize impacts to springs, in-stream flow, and consider irrigation improvements to decrease water use. If dredging is a project component, consider timing of the project in order to minimize impacts to spawning fish and other aquatic species (include spawning seasons), and to reduce spread of exotic invasive species. We recommend early direct coordination with Project Evaluation Program for projects that could impact water resources, wetlands, streams, springs, and/or riparian habitats.

The Department recommends that wildlife surveys are conducted to determine if noise-sensitive species occur within the project area. Avoidance or minimization measures could include conducting project activities outside of breeding seasons.

Based on the project type entered, coordination with State Historic Preservation Office may be required (<http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/index.html>).

Trenches should be covered or back-filled as soon as possible. Incorporate escape ramps in ditches or fencing along the perimeter to deter small mammals and herpetofauna (snakes, lizards, tortoise) from entering ditches.

Design culverts to minimize impacts to channel geometry, or design channel geometry (low flow, overbank, floodplains) and substrates to carry expected discharge using local drainages of appropriate size as templates. Reduce/minimize barriers to allow movement of amphibians or fish (e.g., eliminate falls). Also for terrestrial wildlife, washes and stream corridors often provide important corridors for movement. Overall culvert width, height, and length should be optimized for movement of the greatest number and diversity of species expected to utilize the passage. Culvert designs should consider moisture, light, and noise, while providing clear views at both ends to maximize utilization. For many species, fencing is an important design feature that can be utilized with culverts to funnel wildlife into these areas and minimize the potential for roadway collisions. Guidelines for culvert designs to facilitate wildlife passage can be found on the home page of this application at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/wildlifeguidelines/>.

Based on the project type entered, coordination with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality may be required (<http://www.azdeq.gov/>).



Based on the project type entered, coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may be required (<http://www.usace.army.mil/>)

Based on the project type entered, coordination with County Flood Control district(s) may be required.

Vegetation restoration projects (including treatments of invasive or exotic species) should have a completed site-evaluation plan (identifying environmental conditions necessary to re-establish native vegetation), a revegetation plan (species, density, method of establishment), a short and long-term monitoring plan, including adaptive management guidelines to address needs for replacement vegetation.

***The Department requests further coordination to provide project/species specific recommendations, please contact Project Evaluation Program directly at [PEP@azgfd.gov](mailto:PEP@azgfd.gov).***

#### **Project Location and/or Species Recommendations:**

HDMS records indicate that one or more **Listed, Proposed, or Candidate** species or **Critical Habitat** (Designated or Proposed) have been documented in the vicinity of your project. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) gives the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulatory authority over all federally listed species. Please contact USFWS Ecological Services Offices at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/> or:

#### **Phoenix Main Office**

9828 North 31st Avenue #C3  
Phoenix, AZ 85051-2517  
Phone: 602-242-0210  
Fax: 602-242-2513

#### **Tucson Sub-Office**

201 N. Bonita Suite 141  
Tucson, AZ 85745  
Phone: 520-670-6144  
Fax: 520-670-6155

#### **Flagstaff Sub-Office**

SW Forest Science Complex  
2500 S. Pine Knoll Dr.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Phone: 928-556-2157  
Fax: 928-556-2121

HDMS records indicate that **Western Burrowing Owls** have been documented within the vicinity of your project area. Please review the western burrowing owl resource page at: <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/speciesofgreatestconservneed/burrowingowlmanagement/>.

HDMS records indicate that **Sonoran Desert Tortoise** have been documented within the vicinity of your project area. Please review the Tortoise Handling Guidelines found at: <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/nongamemanagement/tortoise/>

This review has identified **riparian areas** within the vicinity of your project. During the planning stage of your project, avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential impacts to riparian areas identified in this report. Riparian areas play an important role in maintaining the functional integrity of the landscape, primarily by acting as natural drainages that convey water through an area, thereby reducing flood events. In addition, riparian areas provide important movement corridors and habitat for fish and wildlife. Riparian areas are channels that contain water year-round or at least part of the year. Riparian areas also include those channels which are dry most of the year, but may contain or convey water following rain events. All types of riparian areas offer vital habitats, resources, and movement corridors for wildlife. The Pinal County Comprehensive Plan (i.e. policies 6.1.2.1 and 7.1.2.4), Open Space and Trails Master Plan, Drainage Ordinance, and Drainage Design Manual all identify riparian area considerations, guidance, and policies. Guidelines to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to riparian habitat can be found at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/wildlifeguidelines/>. Based on the project type entered, further consultation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Pinal County may be warranted.

Analysis indicates that your project is located in the vicinity of an identified **wildlife habitat connectivity feature**. The **County-level Stakeholder Assessments** contain five categories of data (Barrier/Development, Wildlife Crossing Area, Wildlife Movement Area- Diffuse, Wildlife movement Area- Landscape, Wildlife Movement Area- Riparian/Washes) that provide a context of select anthropogenic barriers, and potential connectivity. The reports provide recommendations for opportunities to preserve or enhance permeability. Project planning and implementation efforts should focus on maintaining and improving opportunities for wildlife permeability. For information pertaining to the linkage assessment and wildlife species that may be affected, please refer

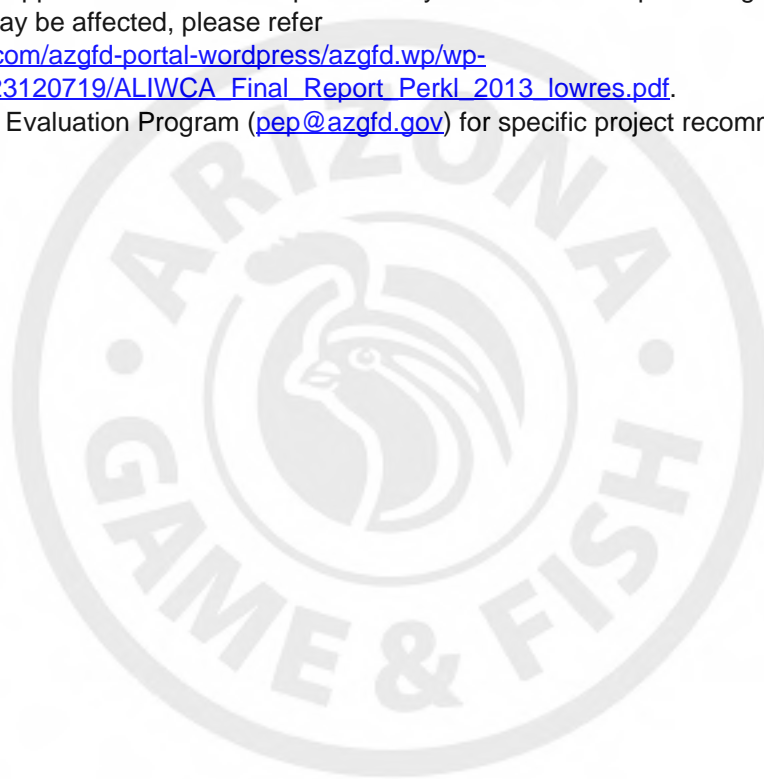
to: <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/habitatconnectivity/identifying-corridors/>.

Please contact the Project Evaluation Program ([pep@azgfd.gov](mailto:pep@azgfd.gov)) for specific project recommendations.

Analysis indicates that your project is located in the vicinity of an identified **wildlife habitat connectivity feature**. The **Statewide Wildlife Connectivity Assessment's Important Connectivity Zones** (ICZs) represent general areas throughout the landscape which contribute the most to permeability of the whole landscape. ICZs may be used to help identify, in part, areas where more discrete corridor modeling ought to occur. The reports provide recommendations for opportunities to preserve or enhance permeability. Project planning and implementation efforts should focus on maintaining and improving opportunities for wildlife permeability. For information pertaining to the linkage assessment and wildlife species that may be affected, please refer

to: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/azgfd-portal-wordpress/azgfd/wp/wp-content/uploads/0001/01/23120719/ALIWCA\\_Final\\_Report\\_Perkl\\_2013\\_lowres.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/azgfd-portal-wordpress/azgfd/wp/wp-content/uploads/0001/01/23120719/ALIWCA_Final_Report_Perkl_2013_lowres.pdf).

Please contact the Project Evaluation Program ([pep@azgfd.gov](mailto:pep@azgfd.gov)) for specific project recommendations.



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